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Champion

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Skem man sent to prison for fly-tipping

Teaching assistant pens first book

BROTHERS JAILED FOR 36 YEARS!

Siblings handed lengthy sentences for rape and drugs offences

TWO brothers from West Lancashire have been handed jail sentences with a combined total of 36 years after being found guilty of rape and drugs-related offences.

A third man from the borough was jailed for five-and-half years for conspiracy to supply class A drugs.

Jeffrey Dillon, 24, of Inglewhite, Skelmersdale, and Bradley Dillon, 20, of Lea Crescent, Ormskirk, along with 28-year-old James Rothwell, of Hallcroft, Skelmersdale, were members of a gang which smuggled heroin and crack cocaine into Blackpool from the Merseyside area.

Fronted by 37-year-old Christopher Nimbley from Liverpool, the so-called 'Carlos' gang were arrested following a complex investigation codenamed Operation Lawson.

Six people appeared at Preston Crown Court for sentencing.

Among them were Nimbley and the Dillon brothers, described as his 'lieutenants', who were also sentenced following their conviction for the rape of a vulnerable woman.

Launched in November, 2016, Operation Lawson established that Nimbley, who pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to conspiracy to supply Class A drugs, was running a mobile phone which drug users would call then be directed to another number for a street dealer.

Undercover surveillance showed that the Dillons were both using the dealer number before any hand-to-hand drug exchanges took place.

Jailed: From left, brothers Bradley Dillon and Jeffrey Dillon and James Rothwell, who was sentenced to five-and-a-half years for conspiracy to supply class A drugs

The arrest of a local drug user in January 2017 seemingly forced Nimbley to move back to Liverpool and leave the Dillon brothers in charge of the Blackpool operation.

Detectives soon learned that more people were involved and that with Nimbley's relocation, the gang was using vulnerable people to work as runners, delivering drugs and money, co-ordinated through a phone relay system.

On Friday, February 3, 2017 warrants were executed at a flat in Blackpool where the Dillon brothers and Rothwell were arrested for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. Numerous phones were seized, as well as digital scales, later found to contain traces of cocaine, heroin and cannabis, and a small amount of cannabis and spice.

James Rothwell was jailed for five years and six months for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

A further drugs warrant was then conducted at another flat in the resort where mobile phones were seized along with plastic bags later found to contain traces of cocaine.

A warrant was also executed at a flat in Mill Street in the Toxteth area of Liverpool, where Nimbley was living. He was not present at the address but documentation and identification was seized linking him to the premises.

Continued inside

Organiser Phil Wallis (centre) and friends at charity day at The Stanley Arms in support of the charity Amy and Friends.

Pub pals stage third charity fundraiser

A FATHER and daughter have teamed up for the third time with the landlord of their local pub, The Stanley Arms to hold a fundraising campaign for charity.

This year Phil Wallis and daughter, Leah, held a number of events, including a 'Our Big Gig', in aid of a two-year-old girl from Up Holland, Lily Mae, who has been diagnosed with Cockayne Syndrome a rare disease of childhood affecting DNA repair.

The team also took part in an eight-mile sponsored walk climbing Whernside on Saturday, May 5.

'Our Big Gig' was staged on Sunday, May 6 at The Stanley Arms and saw 14 live acts (eight outdoors and six indoors) starting from 1pm till late.

Then on Bank Holiday (Monday, May 7) there was a big quiz starting at 6pm.

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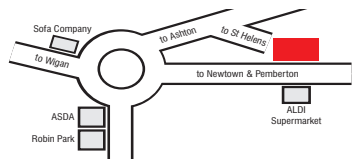

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Rob Owens and Brenda Golds, chairman and secretary of Ormskirk Tennis Club, receive the Club of the Year award from Mike McBrien, Lancashire Lawn Tennis Association executive.

Tennis club serves up an ace to clinch county award

ORMSKIRK Tennis Club served up a winning combination to become Lancashire Club of the Year in this Year's Lawn Tennis Association's British Tennis Awards.

The club beat off competition from clubs based all over the county and Liverpool to be named as the number one club in the area.

The judging panel highlighted the local club's family-friendly ethos, excellent school links, comprehensive coaching and social programme and an inclusive approach as some of the key reasons why it was selected for the award.

Club chairman, Rob Owens, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be named Club of the Year.

"This reflects the hard work of the management committee and coaching team and reinforces the success of our approach to getting more people playing tennis and, more importantly, enjoying the benefits which that brings.

"We have worked hard over the past few years to create and maintain a comprehensive and vibrant programme of tennis, both at the club and within the local community, and this award recognises that effort.

"A heartfelt thank-you must go to all of the members, both junior and senior, parents and community partners who contribute to the club."

Meanwhile Ormskirk Tennis Club is hosting two open days to link in with this year's 'Great British Tennis Weekend.

These will take place on Saturday, May 12 from 10am to 4pm and Sunday, May 13 from noon to 5pm.

The state-of-the-art artificial clay courts and recently refurbished clubhouse will be open to everyone.

And the coaching team will be on hand to offer free tasters outside, with committee members ready to offer refreshments and information about the club inside.

There are also prizes and free coaching vouchers to be won throughout both days.

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St Modwen say Lidl will be second anchor tenant in long-awaited town centre development project

Report by **Henry James**

An artist's impression of what the proposed St Modwen development

DEVELOPERS ST Modwen say they-have agreed a deal that would see global discount supermarket chain Lidl anchor its major regeneration scheme in Skelmersdale Town Centre when the "ambitious" project gets off the ground.

The proposed Lidl store, to be located in the heart of the new development, would occupy a 20,800 sq ft unit and represents a multi-million-pound investment. It will feature facilities including an in-store bakery and parking for customers.

Lidl is the second anchor tenant for the development, following Reel Cinema.

St Modwen is working in partnership with West Lancashire Borough Council and Homes England to deliver an extension to Skelmersdale Town Centre. While no date has been set for work to start, the partners consider the agreement with Lidl to be a major boost for the scheme.

The scheme, which was granted planning permission by the council in 2015, was hit by a legal challenge from the owners of the Concourse Shopping Centre. In January 2016 the legal challenge was dismissed in the High Court and the Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the owners of the Concourse in November 2016.

The St Modwen scheme includes "extensive" improvements to the public realm, including a new pedestrian link between the college and the existing town centre, as well as enhancements to the public areas outside the library and Nye Bevan Pool.

Paul Batho, development director, at St Modwen said: "It is really positive news that we can now announce Lidl as our food retail anchor for the Skelmersdale scheme. This is an integral part of a long-awaited regeneration programme and we are really pleased with the prospect of bringing a new retailer to the town centre."

Councillor Ian Moran, West Lancs Council leader and portfolio holder for economic regeneration, said: "The commitment of Lidl to the project will greatly assist the efforts of the council and its partners to deliver a scheme in the town centre that will be of benefit to the people of Skelmersdale."

Lidl UK's regional head of property, Stuart Jardine, added: "We are delighted with the prospect of opening a new store in Skelmersdale. We've seen incredible demand for Lidl stores across the country and look forward to offering our quality products and incredible value to shoppers in and around Skelmersdale."

St Modwen came under fire in February when the borough's MP, Rosie Cooper, called on them to step aside as partners of the regeneration of Skelmersdale. She expressed her anger after a press release issued by the company said how well it was doing but did not mention the Skelmersdale project.

Labour strengthens grip on borough council

Report by **Henry James**

LABOUR strengthened their hold on West Lancashire Borough Council by taking two seats from the Tories at last week's local elections.

Labour now have 33 councillors, the Conservative 19 and Our West Lancashire two.

On the night, Labour won 10 seats in total, the Conservatives seven and Our West Lancashire one, with a turnout of 36%.

Labour made their gains in Burscough East and North Meols but the party's Gareth Dowling is no longer a councillor. He was a councillor in Knowlsey ward butmoved to contest Derby ward and lost to Ian Davis from Our West Lancashire.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, who reatined his Up Holland seat, said: "I would like to thank the people for voting for Labour across the borough. This was a tremendous result to gain two seats.

"Almost 50% of councillors from the Labour group are now women, which reflects the population of West Lancashire. Labour is growing from strength to strength.

"We have made some difficult decisions but we are planning some amazing developments in West Lancashire over the next two years. We will be bringing forward the Skelmersdale town centre project and we will be looking at the three sports centres in Skelmersdale, Ormskirk, and Burscough.

"There are also exciting plans to be revealed over the next few months. Once we have finished negotiations with our partners, we will announce what these plans are."

Conservative group leader, Councillor David Westley, commented: "The loss of the two seats in Burscough East and North Meols was very disappointing and clearly there was a failure to get our message across or get the Conservative vote out.

"In the other seats we were defending, it was much more encouraging with the Conservative share of the vote increasing and improved majorities. In Up Holland, we doubled the Conservative vote and slashed the Labour leader's majority.

"I greatly regret the loss of Ruth Melling in Burscough East as she was an excellent long-serving councillor, one who cared passionately about her ward and who had extensive community involvement.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran who retained his Up Holland seat but with a reduced majority

"Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for all the hard work put in by the Conservative candidates and supporters. I would also like to thank all those electors who voted for the Conservative candidates."

Meanwhile, Our West Lancashire's Councillor Adrian Owens claimed they were a "growing force" - despite still only having two representatives on the council.

He said: "From these results, it's clear that many residents are increasingly looking for an alternative to the main parties. Two-party politics is failing us in West Lancashire.

"We are the growing force in local politics. Most of our members and supporters have no previous involvement in local politics but are civic-minded and want to help make West Lancashire cleaner, greener and safer."

And Councillor Ian Davis commented: "I'm delighted to have been elected for the second time in less than 12 months and this time for a full four-year term. I look forward to continuing to assist residents in Derby ward with their matters of local concern."

Votes cast were as follows (winning candidate figures in bold type)

Ashurst:
Yvonne Gagen (Labour) **1,041**
Jane Houlgrave (Conservative) 221
William Gilmour (Green Party) 132

Aughton & Downholland:
David O'Toole (Con) **919**
Stephen Kirrelly (Lab) 730

Aughton Park
Doreen Stephenson (Con) **752**
Bernie Green (Lab) 443

Burscough East:
Susan Evans (Lab) **710**
Ruth Melling (Con) 679

Burscough West:
Cynthia Dereli (Labour) **965**
Gillian Taylor (Con) 503

Derby:
Ian Davis (Our West Lancashire) **884**
Gareth Dowling (Lab) 710
Lynne Gray (Con) 221
Heather Doyle (Green) 71

Hesketh-with-Becconsall:
Christopher Ashcroft (Con)**622**
Nick Kemp (Lab) 322
Tina Stringfellow (Liberal Democrat) 97

Knowsley:
Michelle Aldridge (Lab) **1,014**
Jeffrey Vernon (Con) 673
Kate Mitchell (OWL) 306

Moorside:
Terry Devine (Lab) **668**
Sarah Westley (Con)84

Newburgh:
Eddie Pope (Con) **476**
Julian Finch (Lab)162

North Meols:
Kath Lockie (Lab) **625**
George Rear (Con) 503

Parbold:
David Whittington (Con) **861**
Clare Gillard (Lab) 461

Scarisbrick:
Jane Marshall (Con) **793**
Claire Bowen (Lab) 354

Scott:
Noel Delaney (Lab) **850**
Jane Thompson (OWL) 820
George Pratt (Con) 201

Skelmersdale South:
Vickie Cummins (Lab) **1,126**
Valerie Marsh (Con) 260

Tanhouse:
Bob Pendleton (Lab) **714**
Susan Janvier (Con)125

Tarleton:
John Mee (Con) **1,179**
Freddie Hodson (Lab) 531

Up Holland:
Ian Moran (Lab) **1,010**
David Marsh (Con) 818.

Teaching assistant Sue pens first book

TEACHING assistant Sue Langdon *(right)*, who has worked at Moorside CP Academy for more than 20 years, has become a fully-fledged author following the publication of *My Big Greek Summer*.

Written under the pen name, Sue Roberts, the book is available in paperback at the high street and online and draws on her upbringing in Liverpool, as well as frequent visits to Greece.

Sue, who has lived in Skelmersdale for more than 35 years, is also inspiring the next generation of little writers at the school in Back Lane by passing on pearls of wisdom daily.

And she has a second book set for release later this summer.

A spokesman for the school said: "Everyone at Moorside CP is incredibly proud of our wonderful Mrs Langdon."

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Hospital seeks parents' ideas for children's remembrance garden

BEREAVED parents in West Lancashire are being asked to put forward ideas about how to design and build a baby and child remembrance garden at Ormskirk Hospital.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the project is invited to a planning conversation and consultation at the hospital in Wigan Road on Tuesday, May 15, meeting at the main reception.

Refreshments will be provided between 6 and 6.30pm.

The bereavement focus group at Ormskirk Hospital is a multidisciplinary group involving bereaved parents, midwives, specialist nurses, the bereavement service, doctors and chaplaincy and spiritual care.

Reverend Martin Abrams, the chaplain for the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, said: "The ideas and thoughts of bereaved parents are being particularly encouraged.

"As part of the development of some gardens into quiet spaces with remembrance areas, we are asking for help with designing a baby and child remembrance garden at Ormskirk Hospital.

"We plan for work on the garden to begin soon with its completion anticipated during the summer period."

The garden development is part of the new patient charter which includes further enhancing the patient experience.

Support for developing and maintaining the gardens is being given by the West Lancashire Freemasons.

Anyone requiring further information can contact Martin Abrams on 01704 704639.

Rev Martin Abrams is appealing for bereaved parents to help design a children's remembrance garden at Ormskirk Hospital

Trust joins National Bereavement Care Pathway

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust is one of 21 sites across England to have joined the National Bereavement Care Pathway.

The Pathway seeks to improve the overall quality of bereavement care and end the postcode lottery facing parents and families whose baby has died before, during or shortly after birth.

The new sites bring the total number of NHS Trusts taking part in the Pathway to 32, almost tripling the reach of the existing pilot.

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Skem man first to be imprisoned for fly-tipping after council prosecution

SKELMERSDALE man Ian Wilson has been jailed for 14 days for fly-tipping offences in the first prosecution by West Lancashire Borough Council which has led to someone being sent to prison for this type of crime.

Wigan Magistrates Court were advised that a large amount of waste was found fly- tipped on Elmers Green Lane at the side of Beacon Park Golf Course, Up Holland, West Lancashire.

Within the waste was paint which ended up in a watercourse. Council staff working in the area moved the rubbish quickly to minimise the pollution.

A van was captured on CCTV arriving at the site and leaving the area a short while later. A member of the public also witnessed the van and reported it to the council. The van was later discovered to have been hired by Mr Wilson at the time of the offence.

In addition, further enquiries traced the waste back to where it originated from, which helped the council to track down Mr Wilson, of Fairstead, Birch Green.

Mr Wilson pleaded guilty to fly-tipping and secondly failing to provide information within a specified period of time to allow the council to investigate the fly tipping complaint.

Serious

Councillor Kevin Wright, the council's portfolio holder for health and community safety, said "Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and this strong action by the council and the courts illustrates how serious it is and those found guilty can face jail or unlimited fines.

"The council will continue to crackdown on fly-tipping and litter to protect the local environment."

If people think waste has been disposed of illegally then they can report this to the council on the website www.west-lancs.gov.uk/flytipping.

Individuals can also report problems with litter or fly-tipping by calling 01695 577177 between 8.30am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

The council would also like to remind all householders and businesses that they need to make sure any waste that they have removed is disposed of legally.

Anyone removing waste as part of a business must have a waste carriers' licence and give waste transfer notes to whomever they collect waste from.

Householders can check if anyone who removes waste from them has a waste carriers' licence by contacting the Environment Agency on 03708 506506 or by going on their website www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency.

Some of the objects fly-tipped by Ian Wilson

MP accuses CCG of 'lack of respect' for patients

ROSIE Cooper has accused the West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group of "incompetence" and "a lack of respect" over the way its deals with patient queries.

Report by **Henry James**

The MP says that many constituents contact her with concerns and complaints - ranging from lack of access to podiatry services and the removal of gluten-free products, to walk-in centre opening times - which she follows up directly with the CCG.

And she claims that people are now often left waiting for two to three months for a response as a result of what she called the "awful change of systems" for responding to comments, questions or complaints.

However, the CCG say that they take all concerns and complaints seriously and say they have 'regularly' offered to meet the MP but the offers haven't been accepted.

Ms Cooper said: "For a few months now West Lancashire CCG have proven that they have no respect, or indeed care, for the residents and patients they are supposed to be providing care and support for.

'Time-wasting'

"For a pensioner coeliac patient to be waiting two months for an answer to a simple question about their entitlement to gluten-free products is absolutely appalling.

"Others are waiting weeks or months for essential podiatry services and when they come to me for help the CCG leaves them for weeks before responding.

"Does anyone know what's going on? Does anyone at the CCG care about their patients? The new system is ridiculous, time-wasting and confusing for constituents.

"We write letters to the CCG, which they post off to the Commissioning Support Unit in Leyland, who tell us they will respond within a 40 working day time period. But 40 working days later often we still have no resolution but get a letter saying 'we hope to reply in the next few weeks'. Some cases are more than 60 days old!

"On top of this, we have residents getting upset that questions or queries they have made are being treated as a complaint, almost as if no one has read the letters and the replies are just automatically generated.

'Ridiculous'

"I also recently waited nearly three months for a response from the Chief Officer about the terrible SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) situation in Lancashire and affecting West Lancs residents, for which the CCG is jointly responsible.

"When the letter eventually came back all he's done is send me a copy of the reply I had already received from Lancashire County Council. The CCG Chief Officer is being paid too much to be the council's administrative officer!

"This is ridiculous. How much is all this wasting time costing? I will be raising all of these issues and more about the operation of our local CCG with ministers in Parliament."

A spokesperson for West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, responded: "We would like to reassure patients that we take all concerns and complaints seriously.

"The complaints team review all correspondence individually to provide a personal and timely response within best practice guidance.

"For more complex cases that may take longer to resolve, we always strive to keep patients informed.

"We are sorry if any patients have experienced delays and encourage them to contact us.

"We are working with the complaints team to review this feedback and identify any improvements.

"We have regularly offered to meet with Rosie Cooper MP to discuss these concerns and other issues of interest to West Lancashire residents but none of these offers made over the last 18 months have been accepted.

"If Rosie Cooper's office informs the CCG in writing of any letters which they believe are not being dealt with the CCG will look into these as a matter of urgency."

Brothers jailed for 36 years for rape and drugs offences

From Page 1

Items recovered were forensically examined and found to have Nimbley's fingerprints on them. Also seized from the premises was 14 grams of 29% purity heroin and two large white crack cocaine rocks valued at around £10,000.

Other arrests and seizures followed.

Then, following a media appeal, Nimbley was located and arrested at an address in Liverpool. Also found at the premises was a suitcase containing more than £2,000 and digital scales.

The investigation by Lancashire Constabulary revealed that the principal members of the gang - Nimbley and the Dillon brothers - were not just involved in the supply of heroin and cocaine.

Evidence obtained from a number of mobile telephones seized and submitted for forensic examination revealed a woman, who appeared to be unresponsive throughout and was clearly intoxicated, had been sexually assaulted and raped.

Detectives later identified the woman, who had not consented to the sexual activity, and had no recollection of the incident.

Following a three-week trial at Preston Crown Court, Nimbley and Bradley Dillon were found guilty of rape and sexual assault, and Jeffrey Dillon was found guilty of rape.

Nimbley was sentenced to seven years for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs, 25 years for rape with an extended five-year licence, and five years for sexual assault.

Bradley Dillon was sentenced to three years for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs, 14 years for rape and five years for sexual assault.

Jeffrey Dillon was handed four years for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and 22 years with a five-year extended licence for rape.

They will serve their sentences concurrently.

DCI Rebecca Smith, of Blackpool Police, said: "These are dangerous men who have exploited their power, not only to facilitate illegal activities, but to violate an innocent woman, causing extreme physical and emotional harm. Their acts are truly despicable."

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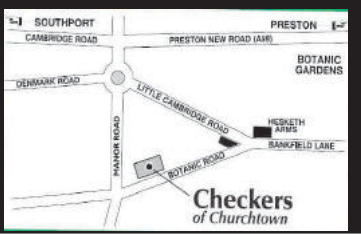

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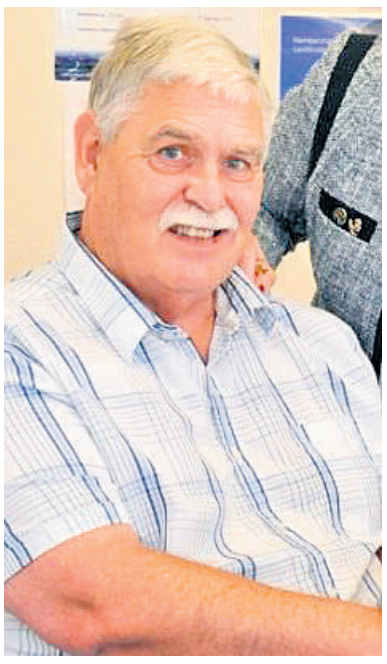
Founder and chairman of award-winning Skem charity to step down due to ill health

'I do not want my health to have a detrimental effect on the long-term future of Brighter Future Workshop'



Peter Cousins MBE who is stepping down from his role as chairman of Brighter Future Workshop

Report by **Henry James**

AFTER 15 years as chairman of Brighter Future Workshop, Peter Cousins MBE is to step down over the next few months due to ill health.

Peter is the founder of the organisation, which is based at Greenhey Place in Skelmersdale, and opened for business in 2005 as a charity that takes young people with disabilities to train in their workshop.

These trainees work alongside trained technicians to recycle donated mobility equipment including wheelchairs, mobility scooters and rise and recline chairs among others.

When recycled the equipment is sold at a 'cost-effective' price to needy disabled people who can't afford new equipment.

Peter said: "I am saddened to do this but I do not want my health to have a detrimental effect on the long-term future of Brighter Future Workshop. Now at 70 I believe this is the right time for me to step-down.

"I am looking for a competent, dynamic person to take over my role and continue to develop Brighter Future Workshop; or we can also explore possibilities of either Brighter Future being taken over by or merging with another charity.

"Any constructive ideas are up for consideration to ensure the long-term continuity of Brighter Future to help people with disabilities through training, sales, service, repair or recycling of mobility equipment."

Awards

At the end of the financial year June 30, 2017 Brighter Future was 92% sustainable.

They had recycled more than 35,000 pieces of mobility equipment and completed more than a 100,000 training hours with young people with disabilities.

At the end of March 2018 they had a total earned income of £4,652,012.

Since its foundation Brighter Future Workshop has won many awards including a Queen's Award for Sustainable Development; Best Social Enterprise England; Best Social Enterprise UK; Best Social Firm in Europe; Deloitte Innovation Pioneers; and The Big Society Award.

Man charged after suspected stabbing near to Concourse

POLICE are investigating a suspected stabbing outside McDonald's in Skelmersdale which left a man with serious but not life-threatening injuries.

The incident is thought to have happened at around 3am on Saturday, May 5 and the victim is believed to have been homeless.

The police and the ambulance service were called to the scene and a man was arrested soon after the incident.

Janis Triblis-Runcitis, 35, was at the scene and took pictures and posted them to his social media account.

A duty manager at McDonald's is believed to have helped the victim.

Following the incident Skelmersdale Police posted this message on their social media account: "Skelmersdale Police have been investigating an incident on May 5 in the vicinity of the Concourse, where one male has been seriously injured but injuries are not life-threatening."

Police later issued a statement which read as follows: "We were called at 3.06 hours on Saturday, May 5 to reports of an assault close to the Concourse in Skelmersdale.

"Officers and paramedics attended and a man in his 30s was found with stab wounds to his upper body.

"He was taken to Aintree Hospital where he remains in a stable condition.

"Aaron Clarke, 28, of Evington, Skelmersdale, has been charged with wounding with intent and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place. He has been remanded in custody."

Men-Aces enjoy trip to watch Team GB

MEMBERS of the Skem Men-Aces disability football team travelled to watch Team GB play Pontefract Pirates.

Haydn Pulford and Darryl Morris, who play for the Men-Aces, were chosen early on in the year to represent Team GB in the Mencap Euros in Geneva.

They were picked from 100s of lads from all corners of GB after a rigorous training session.

The whole squad recently went on a training weekend in Pontefract where they were given their entire kit, played different teams and sorted out their positions.

Team GB beat Pontefract.

Manager of the Men-Aces, Carl Eaton, said: "Haydn and Darryl fly out to Geneva this month. This is a massive honour for the club, and town, but most of all it's a great opportunity, and experience for the two lads.

"They have worked so hard and done so well to get this and they are getting really excited now.

"As a club we try and make as many new experiences for the players, give them new opportunities and see them grow.

"It's not just about the football, being part of a team is a challenge in itself. Making memories such as this opportunity is priceless.

"Our next big trip is taking some lads over to Belfast for four days. Once again this is another new experience and will help break down barriers."

Right: Members from the Skelmersdale Men-Aces who went to watch Team GB with Haydn and Daryll

Chance to journey back in time as Medieval Festival returns

THERE'S a chance to take a journey back in time and experience what life was like in West Lancashire 900 years ago when the popular Ormskirk Medieval Festival returns to the town's Coronation Park at the weekend.

The fabulous two-day extravaganza on Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13 May is free and has once again been organised by West Lancs Council's Parks and Countryside Service.

There will be with fabulous medieval-themed activities, entertainment and displays for people of all ages to enjoy between 11am and 4pm on both days.

Members of Historia Normannis will do battle in exciting combat displays and tournaments, bringing the exciting events of the Fourth Crusade to life. And visitors can try on the armour or even try their hand at archery.

Everyday life in the 12th Century will be featured with medieval cooking demonstrations and a 'fashion show' to talk about the different styles of dress of the times.

And a range of refreshments will be on sale, while there will be donkey rides, face painting, children's rides, and a giant bouncy castle.

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Award-winning garden opened at Martin Mere

AN award-winning garden from a world-famous flower show has been officially opened to visitors to the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust's centre at Martin Mere in Burscough.

The Royal Bank of Canada Garden was awarded a gold medal at the 2017 RHS Chelsea Flower Show last May.

Manager at Martin Mere, Nick Brooks, said: "We've relocated the garden within our new Wooded Wetlands area which showcases species and habitats found in the boreal forests and wetlands.

"We're thrilled to be giving visitors a taste of the great Canadian wilderness right here in Lancashire.

"It really is an awe-inspiring garden and is going to be very popular with our visitors. We are very grateful to Royal Bank of Canada for continuing their longstanding support of WWT's wetland conservation."

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) was the first UK beneficiary of a RBC Blue Water Grant eight years ago so it is appropriate that the Royal Bank of Canada Garden has been relocated to the Martin Mere Wetland Centre.

Charlotte Harris, who designed the garden, said: "I'm thrilled that this garden has found a permanent home at Martin Mere Wetland Centre. It feels like the perfect location - a wonderful educational space about the global importance of forests and wetlands, that specifically explores the Boreal zone.

The Royal Bank of Canada Garden from the 2017 RHS Chelsea Flower Show

"I explored the Boreal landscape of northern Ontario by canoe in 2016, and tried to bring a sense of that vast and beautiful wilderness by making a garden of mature pines and glacial boulders.

"The Chelsea garden fits so perfectly into the setting at Martin Mere, and I hope visitors will enjoy the garden for many years to come."

The garden is home to a variety of plant species that will provide a sensory experience through coloured flowers, scent and touch.

One of the most unusual species to see is the Jack Pine trees. Very uncommon in this country, Jack Pines can survive in freezing cold temperatures but need the searing heat of forest fires to open their cones and regenerate. Visitors will be able to see these and more throughout spring and summer.

The world's largest land-based biome and one of the planet's largest sources of unfrozen fresh water, the boreal is a huge area of forested natural habitat.

It stretches across the far northern latitudes, from Siberia to Scandinavia and right across Canada. As well as providing a diverse habitat for thousands of species of flora and fauna, the boreal also plays an important global role in the reduction of carbon dioxide.

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Cobbs Brow pupils contribute to county archives identity project

PUPILS at a Skelmersdale school have helped to produce creative work now on display at the Lancashire Archives in Preston.

Cobbs Brow Primary in Manfield was one of nine schools in the county invited to take part in Lancashire County Council's 'Sounds of Identity' project which aims to encourage young people to think about their values, and to create new ones for their school.

The youngsters worked alongside staff from the authority's heritage learning team, the award-winning Young Uns folk group, and in partnership with the Department for Education, to find new ways of teaching British values in primary schools.

Their work so far has been compiled into a 'Sounds of Identity' collection and was recently presented to the archives in Bow Lane, Preston.

County Councillor Peter Buckley

County Councillor Peter Buckley, the county council's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "I think that engaging the young people to harness their own ideas is a very useful way of achieving greater understanding. The project has also continued to develop both their literacy and creativity.

"The pupils were able to choose someone from their community, or a historical figure, who they feel brought about change and cohesion, as the inspiration for their work. This made the project have even more personal relevance for each pupil taking part."

A teacher and three pupils from each of the schools became British Value Ambassadors, and they in turn identified a class or year group to take part in the project. Each pupil created a 'book of journeys' to record their work.

The award-winning Young Uns folk group then worked with the pupils to showcase their work musically.

Pupils were also encouraged to explore their values through prose and poetry, or by developing their own ideas.

Town's over-50s invited to events to celebrate older generations' role in community

Report by **Henry James**

DIRECTORS of the Skelmersdale-based social enterprise, The Sewing Rooms, Paula Gamester and Maureen Fazal, are inviting over-50s in the town to join them at two events to celebrate the contribution that older generations make to society.

The Age of Inspiration events will be held at the Evermoor Hub in Digmoor on Wednesday, May 16 from 1 to 3.30pm and at Tanhouse Community Centre, Ennerdale on Thursday, May 24, both running from 1 to 3.30pm.

The events are free to attend, thanks to Building Better Opportunities (BBO) programme funding from the European Social Fund, the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund, and Lancashire County Council.

Paula explained: "The ambition for Age of Inspiration is to ignite, inspire and connect our older people to the things that keep them well.

Maureen Fazal and Paula Gamester are inviting Skelmersdale's over-50s to two events to celebrate the contribution the older generations make to society

'Fantastic initiative'

"We have amazing afternoons in store for those attending. We will be using humour and laughter as a mechanism to turn your bad days into good days and have enlisted the help of local entertainers, Paul McCoy and Dave Ashley. These are going to be afternoons of inspiration, fun and laughter."

Paula and Maureen say: "There are assets and gifts out there in communities and our job as good servants and as good leaders is to recognise those gifts in others, and help them put those gifts into action

"Communities have never been built upon their deficiencies. Building communities has always depended on mobilising the capacity and assets of people and place."

Liz Tapner, chief executive of the Social Enterprise Lancashire Network (Selnet), who leads the Building Better Opportunities in Lancashire, said: "We are delighted to partner with two of Lancashire's leading social innovators on this fantastic initiative and to celebrate the value of the contribution our older residents make."

Maureen Fazal added: "There is so much we, as an older generation, can do to have a rich, fulfilled and active older life."

At the events there will be opportunities for participants to 'unlock the passions and interests that give them energy for change' and 'build networks and connections including friendships and neighbourliness"

Also invited to attend are representatives from local community and voluntary associations and from the public, private and third sector organisations that are available to support them.

The theme of the events will be the New Economics Foundation Five Ways to Wellbeing, a set of evidence-based practical things that participants can do to help stay strong and resilient. These are - connect; be active; take notice; keep learning and give.

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All served with wok tossed Asian vegetables (carrots, beansprouts, spring onion, onion and egg)

Classic Boxes

Small £5.50
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VEGGIE BOX

Tofu, mushroom, pineapple, tomato, broccoli and Asian vegetables all simmered in a sauce of your choice (soy, sweet chilli, hot chilli).

PAD THAI BOX

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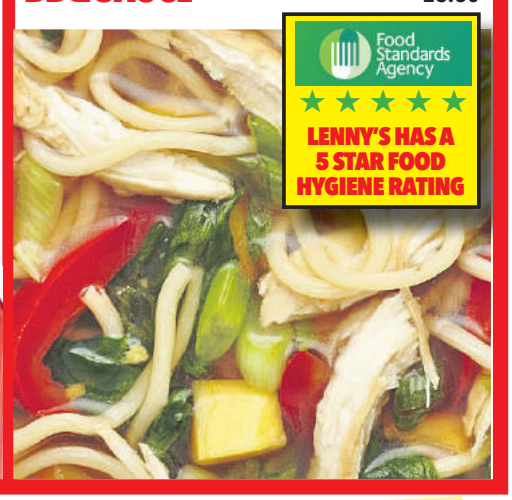

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The West Lancashire College Performing Arts students who presented *Eighteen*

More recognition and awards for college's Performing Arts group

PERFORMING Arts students from West Lancashire College are celebrating after receiving more acclaim at the prestigious Leverhulme Drama Festival.

Members of the college's extra-curricular theatre group, Storm2Theatre, took to the stage at the Gladstone Theatre in Port Sunlight and earned a clutch of nominations and awards.

The group were winners of Best Under 21 Youth Play for *Eighteen*, written by Gary Owens; Harry Burns won Best Actor; Georgia Bannister was Best Actress runner-up; and Kyra McKenzie was nominated for supporting actress.

They were also nominated for artistic endeavour for sound and lighting and also the whole ensemble were nominated for an award too.

The group performed *Eighteen* - a moving story set in the First World War - at the college's Hope Theatre recently where they received excellent reviews with many of the audience moved to tears.

Performing arts tutor, Deb Fletcher, said "We are so proud of our talented students, they amaze us with their passion, enthusiasm and talent every single day and winning awards such as these are testament to their hard work and commitment.

"I'd also like to thank and congratulate our fantastic playwright, Gary Owens, for letting us be the first to perform this fabulously moving story."

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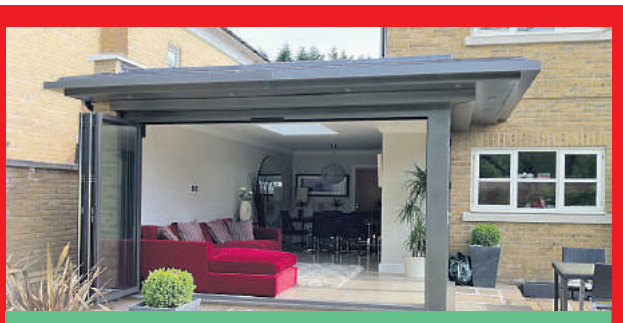
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School 'hatches' plan for new teaching methods!

YOUNGSTERS in a reception class at a West Lancs school experienced the joys of watching a dozen chicks hatch - thanks to new teaching methods.

Burscough Village Primary School has adopted the Step Into Quality programme for its early years provision. This involves teachers no longer following structured topic plans but developing learning through the children's interests and fascinations.

Reception class teacher at the school in Colburne Close, Rachel Beevers, said: "This half-term the children have discussed new life and the life cycle of a frog after finding frog spawn on our school field. The children continued to ask questions about chicks and how they hatch from an egg so on April 23 we had a delivery of eggs and during the week 12 chicks hatched.

"The children were delighted. It was wonderful to watch the their looks of amazement as the little chicks grew stronger each day.

"We have now developed whole curriculum links, in particular in reading, writing, knowledge and understanding. It's a wonderful experience for our early years children."

Burscough Village Primary School pupils with some of their recently-hatched chicks.

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Care company to hold free dementia awareness sessions and fundraising quiz

HOME Instead Senior Care, who provide at-home care and support services for adults and older people in West Lancashire, Chorley, and surrounding areas, are holding a series of free Alzheimer's Society 'Dementia Awareness' sessions.

The free sessions are available to the public to help family members and those caring for people living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia.

Workshops at the company's Ormskirk premises at 34 Heskin Lane will be held from 1 to 3pm on Thursday, June 21, Thursday, July 26 and Thursday, August 23.

Gail Godson, co-owner of Home Instead Senior Care, and Jessica Pearce, recruitment and retention manager.

Committed

And in addition to the free workshops, Home Instead is running a fundraising Challenge Dementia Pub Quiz in support of the Alzheimer's Society.

This will be held at the Toby Carvery in County Road, Ormskirk on Tuesday, May 22 from 2 to 4pm, to coincide with Dementia Action Week (May 21 to 27).

Local charities, businesses, organisations and members of the public are invited to take part.

Co-owner of Home Instead (West Lancashire and Chorley), Gail Godson, said: "We are committed to supporting our local community, focusing upon providing high-quality care services, which help to keep people safe, in the comfort of their own home, for longer.

"By understanding how to care for someone with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia, the experience can be a more positive, enjoyable, and satisfying one.

"The workshops are not limited, they are available to all local people living and or working in our community."

For more information about the workshops or quiz, call 01695 589071 or 01257 429156.

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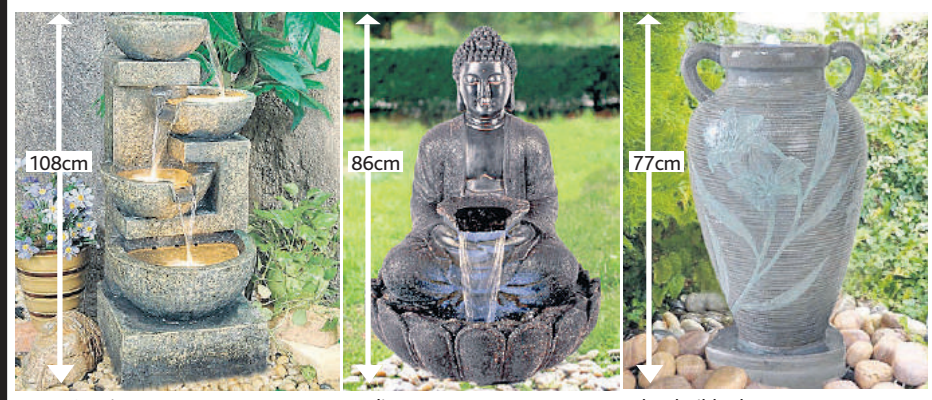

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Age UK and finance company host afternoon tea and information event for older people

AGE UK Lancashire and insurance company Prudential UK have teamed up to host a Royal Afternoon Tea for older people in the local community.

The event has been organised to provide information on local services and organisations there to help older people with some of the issues faced in later life.

However, visitors will also enjoy live musical entertainment, a quiz and raffle, along with plenty of sandwiches, cakes and refreshments

It will be held at Age UK Lancashire's Wellbeing Centre, in Moorgate, Ormskirk from 1.30 to 3.30pm on Wednesday, May 23.

That is just four days after the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle and organisers hope that the 'feel good' factor generated by the royal occasion will encourage people to attend.

It is free to attend but booking is essential as there are limited spaces available.

Promotions manager at Age UK Lancashire, David Ward, said: "The Royal Afternoon Tea will be a great opportunity for older people, friends and family and carers in the area to chat to an expert about any concerns or issues they may have and ultimately get the help they need.."

To get in touch with Age UK Lancashire about the event call 01695 586508; email admin@ageuk-lancs.org.uk; or drop into the Wellbeing centre Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm to speak with a member of staff.

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Members of the West Lancashire Freemasons' group pictured with staff and trustees from Willowbrook Hospice.

Freemasons' £20k boost for hospice

A CHARITY which provides care for patients with life-limiting diseases has received a bumper five-figure boost - courtesy of the West Lancashire Freemasons.

The masons presented a cheque for £20,000 to Willowbrook Hospice to extend and develop their pre and post-bereavement support services.

Situated in Eccleston Park, between Prescot and St Helens, Willowbrook provides support to patients and their families according to their individual needs.

Last year, to March 31, 2017, it cost £4.495m to run the hospice with the NHS contributing approximately a third and the rest funded by generous donations by the public and fundraising efforts.

In October 2017, the Masonic Charitable Foundation, in partnership with Hospice UK, invited bids for funding from hospices who wished to expand the support they offer for bereaved families and individuals.

Willowbrook was chosen out of 90 applications received from throughout England.

The grant will be used to develop a new service called 'Willowbrook Connections' to help meet family and carer needs for those whose loved ones have or are currently receiving specialist palliative care across St Helens, Knowsley and surrounding areas.

Grateful

Janet Barlow, family support therapist at Willowbrook, who was involved in submitting the bid, said: "We are extremely grateful to receive this £20,000 grant from the Masonic Charitable Foundation which will enable us to extend and develop our current services so that we're able to support even more local people (including children and young people) both pre and post-bereavement."

Leslie Newman, West Lancashire Freemasons' group charity steward, added: "This is the largest grant we have ever made to a hospice and shows The Masonic Charitable Foundation and Willowbrook Hospice working together for and on behalf of our community."

Spring Bed Event

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DOUBLE WAS ~~£699~~ EVENT PRICE £399

KINGSIZE WAS ~~£749~~ EVENT PRICE £449

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SUPERKING WAS ~~£1199~~ EVENT PRICE £799

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Even farm tracks put our potholed roads to shame

IT is really coming to something when farm tracks (as pictured, right) leave our potholed roads behind in the shame stakes.

It really does beggar belief how the state of our roads have continually failed even after the monies that have been poured into some of the potholes here in West Lancashire.

To name but a few:

Plough Lane - absolutely deplorable, the road is reverting back to what it was, a farm track.

Junction Lane - from the bridge near Delph Drive down to the mini island junction with Square Lane and Briars Lane, this is a pothole-riddled road that emergency ambulances use when exiting and returning to the ambulance station.

The stretch of Course Lane, Newburgh - approaching the Post Office and the mini island, this is in serious need of repair or is it a ploy to keep vehicular speeds down as they travel through the village?

As a ratepayer and a 'cash cow' motorist I personally think that it is well overdue that we were getting answers to where our money is being squandered.

Road repair bodge jobs done on the cheap and by operatives that are complicit in pouring our monies on the second-rate repairs down the roadside drains with the next rainstorm.

It is about time and long overdue that the road-users throughout Lancashire started a withhold monies campaign in an attempt to get proper, long-lasting repairs on our roads.

Could you imagine if motorists and motorcyclists en masse just ceased to pay the vehicle excise duty and their general rates? The courts would be absolutely inundated with cases that need answers.

We have had nearly 10 years of austerity and all of the excuses for a whole host of essential parts of the shambles of an infrastructure that is hanging by tatty and torn threads - no more, because enough is enough.

John Shepherd, by email

PICTURE of the week

Keeping up with tradition, the Maypole Dance was one of the highlights at the Lydiate Festival held over the May Bank Holiday. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Drop us a line...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume or one may be provdied for them.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Thanks for a super day out at War Horse Walk

WE would just like to say a big thank-you to the organisers for the walk retracing the route taken by the War Horses from Ormskirk station to Lathom Park Remount Depot.

There were more than 150 people on the walk on a gloriously sunny May Bank Holiday Monday.

Volunteers from Aughton & Ormskirk U3A gave informative talks on route and it was very well organised.

On reaching Lathom Chapel we were greeted with lovely homemade cakes and tea and coffee provided by the ladies at Lathom Chapel, all very reasonably priced.

All in all a super day out.

Ian and Shirley Cooke, by email

Can someone tell me what's happening with our library?

WOULD someone please enlighten me as to what is happening with Up Holland library?

Such a valuable community asset that was foolishly and inexplicably closed down.

A new administration vowed to re-open and has awarded some kind of a contract with the result that it still stands unused and empty some six months after a decision was made.

I mentioned this to canvassers of both political parties who came knocking on my door with the result that both blamed each other!

No wonder the turnout of local elections is low.

I sometimes feel that those in power forget that they are supposedly representing local people and meeting the needs of local people within the community.

John Gallagher,
Up Holland, by email

Welcome publicity will bring a much needed boost to a worthy cause

I WISH to express a huge thank-you for the wonderful publicity you have given my book in recent issues of the Champion - and hence the huge boost you have given to the charity War Child, to whom all the royalties are going.

My father, Captain Tommy C. Roberts, was not a pacifist. He believed that there were some wars which unfortunately needed to be fought - for instance, the one against Adolf Hitler and his allies in which he was personally involved.

However, he was keenly aware of the grievous effects of war on the children of this world, not only those who are left orphans, but those physically and or mentally scarred by the effects of war.

Sadly, the numbers of children thus affected in our modern world is increasing, not diminishing.

War Child is not a big charity but they do fantastic work and they are not party-politically linked.

Dad would have been very grateful, on his own behalf and also on behalf of his beloved comrades who did not return from the Far East Theatre of War.

Patricia Ireland

The law should help to keep bikes and cars off our pavements not encourage them

IN 1835 a law was passed banning cyclists from pavements and I am told it is still in force.

In Burscough Street, Ormskirk, there used to be two signs, one at each end, banning cyclists from the town centre.

Instead of fining the culprits, the council took the easy way out and took the signs down!

The police recently told me that you can park your car on the pavement as long as it doesn't cause an obstruction.

Law and order in this country has rapidly deteriorated and I dread to think what it will be like in five or 10 years' time.

I am 88 years old now so will probably never find out.

A. E. Millington, Ormskirk

Main approach road to our historic town spoiled by advertising

WHO on earth is responsible for allowing advertising on the roundabout at the bottom of Holborn Hill?

Has everything in this world got a price?

The main approach road to what is supposed to be a beautiful, historic market town has now been molested by commercialism.

What was once a well-kept, floral welcome to visitors is now an advertising space for the private sector.

Have some thought for residents who pay their council tax and have lived here for most of their days.

We do not want this trash, tacky advertising.

The council should immediately remove this eyesore.

Mark Price, by email

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County council supports foster care awareness campaign

Events organised to showcase fostering service and highlight need for more recruits

LANCASHIRE County Council is holding a number of events to celebrate Foster Care Fortnight (May 14 to 27) and recruit new carers who are #ProudToFoster.

Foster Care Fortnight is the UK's biggest foster care awareness-raising campaign, delivered by The Fostering Network charity.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We are pleased to take part in this great campaign which showcases the commitment, passion and dedication of carers who are proud to foster.

"It also supports fostering services to highlight the need for more carers.

"We are always looking for new foster carers for the range of children who come into our care each week, with the greatest need being for foster carers for older children, sibling groups and children with additional needs.

"The theme of Foster Care Fortnight this year is 'foster care transforms lives' - and this isn't just the lives of the children and young people who are fostered. It also has the power to change the lives of foster carers, their families and all involved in fostering."

County Councillor Susie Charles

Anyone interested can get involved with the campaign on social media by sharing a picture or film clip of themselves using the hashtags #ProudToFoster or #ProudToSupportFostering.
They can find out more about how they can help by visiting The Fostering Network website.

As well as the number of events taking place throughout the county, there will also be a Fostering Information Evening at County Hall, Preston on Wednesday, May 23 at 6pm with the opportunity to meet experienced social workers and current carers and ask questions.

Flexible

There is no need to book but anyone wishing to attend should arrive early to avoid disappointment.

No formal experience or qualifications are needed to be a foster carer, all residents need is an available spare room and a desire to make a difference to a local child's life.

A package of support is available 24/7 to help foster carers in their role, including local support groups, their own social worker, a dedicated helpline and flexible training.

People who are unable to attend an event can call the fostering recruitment team on 0300 123 6723 or go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering.

● *Appeal for more foster carers - Page 29*

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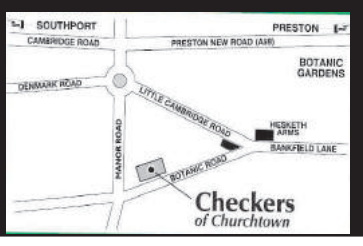

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Merseyrail to launch new timetables

Report by **Henry James**

NEW timetables for all Merseyrail Northern line services will be launched on Saturday, June 2 ready for the opening of the new Maghull North station.

A 15-minute frequency will continue to run on all lines, however the calling times at stations will change.

The new timetable has been launched to coincide with the start of the Lime Street upgrade for passenger convenience, including those connecting on to the Merseyrail network from mainline services at Liverpool South Parkway.

Services on the Ormskirk and Kirkby lines will run to the new timetable from Saturday, June 2.

Services on the Southport and Hunts Cross line will run to a temporary timetable between Saturday, June 2 and Sunday, July 29 while the Lime Street upgrade works take place, with the new Northern line timetable coming in to effect permanently from Monday, July 30.

The introduction of a new station on the Ormskirk line will slightly increase journey times by four minutes from Ormskirk to Liverpool and by one minute from Liverpool to Ormskirk.

All Northern line timetables will change as the extended journey time will affect other trains running in to Liverpool city centre.

Trains will not call at Maghull North until the station opens on Monday, June 18 and trains will instead be held at Town Green station for a few minutes from Saturday, June 2 so that services on the rest of the line run to the new timetable.

Andy Heath, managing director at Merseyrail said: "We have ensured that passengers still receive a 15-minute service with the new timetable, which is necessary for us to welcome our 67th station, Maghull North, on to the Merseyrail network.

"We have tried to keep things as simple as possible for our passengers, and those connecting on to our services at Liverpool South Parkway, by changing the timetables just once at the start of the Lime Street upgrade.

"Maghull North is a great example of the significant investment that is being made to improve our local railway and will shortly be followed by the introduction of our new state-of-the-art trains.

The new timetable is available online at merseyrail.org and timetable booklets are available at stations.

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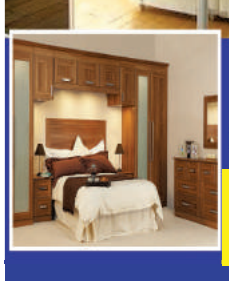

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Pupils from Burscough Priory Science College at Pingellir National Park, Iceland.

School's Iceland trip brings lessons to life

YOUNGSTERS at a West Lancs school experienced first-hand some of the amazing natural phenomena they have been learning about in lessons during a four-day expedition to Iceland.

Staff from Burscough Priory Science College's geography and science departments took a 38-strong party of pupils to see the sights and wonders of the country known for its glaciers, volcanoes, hot springs and lava fields.

During their stay they experienced caving underground in lava tubes, viewing the dramatic Gullfoss waterfall and a soak and a mud mask in the famous geothermal Blue Lagoon.

Trip organiser, Jeannette Sefton-Miles, said: "It was such an amazing opportunity for the pupils to see the features they have been learning about in lessons. Witnessing these features will really help them with their geography GCSE, as well as other subjects like science."

Year 10 pupil, Grace Beesley, said: "We visited the Skogafoss waterfall and just as we arrived a rainbow appeared, it was amazing! You were surrounded by the noise of the water crashing down and the beauty of the volcanic scenery."

The young geographers also visited Reynishverfi black sand beach, Hellisheidi geothermal power station and saw boiling-hot great geysers rocket 30 metres up on a visit to the Golden Circle.

Nick Hill, subject leader for geography, was congratulated by staff at a number of the venues they visited on the youngsters' behaviour. He said: "It was great to see the pupils represent their school and community of Burscough in such a respectful manner, we are very proud of them."

Pupils and staff have recorded their experiences on the geography department's Twitter account @bpscgeography and on Instagram geography-bpsc, where you can follow and see pictures and clips of their adventure.

And following the success of the trip the geography department will be taking another group of students next April.

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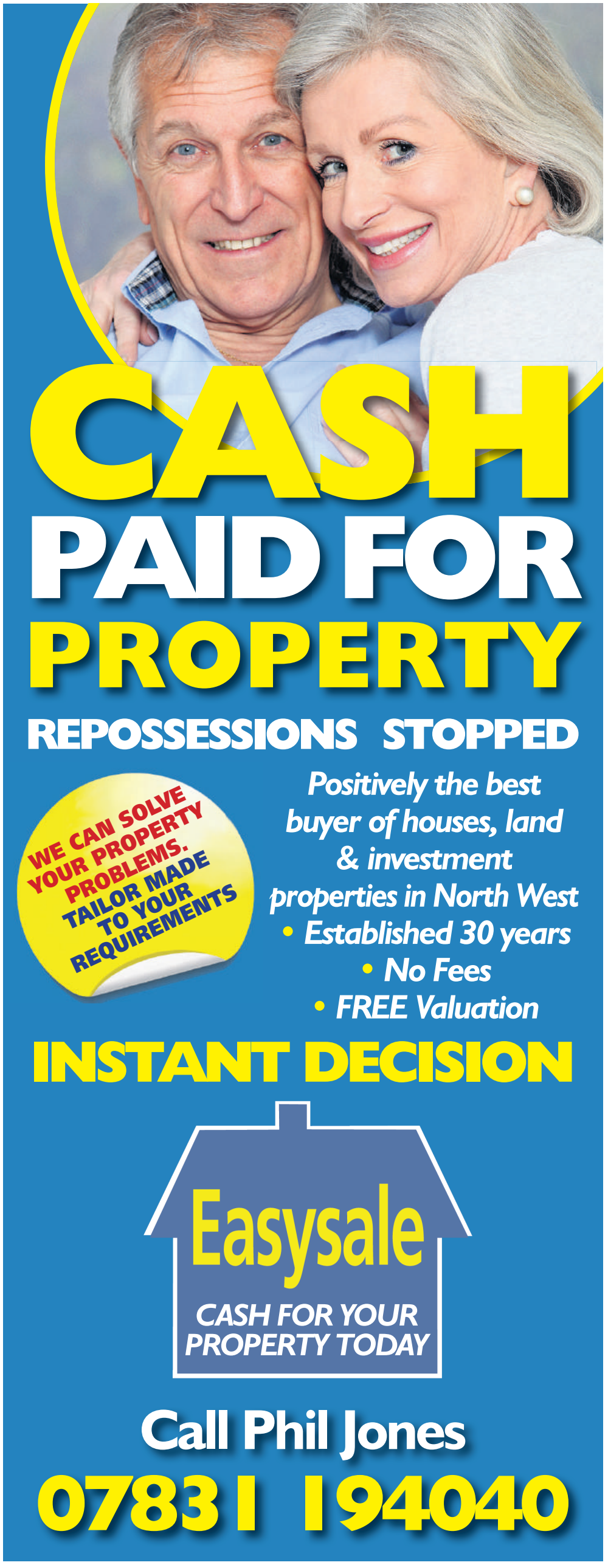

Teaching and support staff at Edge Hill University with their student-nominated awards.

Recognition for staff and students at Edge Hill celebration nights

BOTH staff and students were honoured at Edge Hill University Students' Union's Celebration Fortnight.

The annual student-led Staff Awards saw more than 450 students nominate teaching and support staff who have made an impact on students' personal and academic lives.

From preventing students from 'dropping out' to outstanding teaching, nominations highlighted the immense number of staff who play an important role in students' lives at Edge Hill.

The university's vice-chancellor, John Cater, said: "These awards recognise sheer dedication to excellence in both teaching and support, motivating staff to shine and students to reflect on what they truly appreciate in a good university experience.

"The response from the student body this year has been wonderful, and reflects the enormous amount of enthusiasm to recognise the hard work of all staff at Edge Hill.

"I'd like to congratulate all of this year's outstanding winners, as well as everyone who was nominated."

Vital link

Sports and Societies Award nights also saw a number of student teams, groups and individuals praised for commendable actions over the past year, including the Edge Hill Sign Language Society, who saw their live signed broadcast of Christina Perri's *A Thousand Years* go viral last year as part of a Disability History Month campaign.

The celebration fortnight also gives special recognition to student representatives and part-time officers who create a vital link between students, teaching staff and Edge Hill Students' Union, play a large part in ensuring students are happy with their courses, and run campaigns on student issues.

Luke Myer, vice-president of Academic Representation, said: "It's important to recognise the hundreds of students who not only work hard on their degree, but also put a huge amount of time into extra-curricular activities, whether it's sports, societies, or representation.

"Students at Edge Hill are incredibly passionate about the quality of their education and student experience and we're really lucky to have so many students who want to get involved with helping us make Edge Hill an even better place to study."

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Spring fair fundraiser for scouts and hospital

THE 29th Burscough Scout Group are holding a fundraising Spring Fair on Saturday, May 12 at the village's St John's Playing Fields in School lane.

Starting at noon, the fun-filled event will feature bouncy castles, face painting, a BBQ, cake stalls, raffle and much more.

Ormskirk Hospital radio station will also be in attendance, providing music and raising money for the hospital.

Anyone who would like to set up a stall (car and table) is welcome to do so for a charge of £5 per car, payable on day.

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Electric troubles took shine off my spring cruise - but I still got a tan and some new friends!

I CAN'T have been touching wood (and after all, my river cruiser, *Manxman*, is made of about eight tons of the stuff) when I wrote last week's column about my hopes for an uninterrupted holiday on the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads.

What did I say? That I was sure my faithful old boat would start after its winter sojourn and I would have no trouble with her ancient electrics. Asking for trouble maybe? Well, I got it, in spades!

Not only would *Manxman* not start, the interior lights were more akin to sulky glow-worms than anything to read by and both the domestic and starter batteries were flat as the proverbial flukes.

Now that should not have been possible because she had just been fitted with a new alternator and was plugged into a battery-charging unit. And though the cash in the meter had run out they should still have been more than capable of starting the engine, or for that matter of enabling me to see what might be amiss.

Still, hope springs eternal, and after putting a new card in the meter and waiting only a relatively short time, the motor coughed into life and the lights burned brightly.

Perhaps I should explain that the fact that old alternator gave up the ghost was my fault. Right at the end of my last cruise of 2017, the ignition had stayed on (I don't know why) and by the Law of Sod the ignition key fob had flopped over the warning light so I didn't realise for perhaps an hour, by which time the unit had burned itself out.

Still, a highly-competent sparks agreed to fit a replacement but though he listened at the time did not check the 'X-Split' box (which decides which bank of batteries most needs charging and directs the electricity in that direction first) which I felt had been not charging the domestics as well as it used to and should. Nor did he check the health of the batteries themselves.

To cut a long and sorry story short, the end result was that even after a long day's run and with the benefit of the three solar panels I have, by halfway through an evening the TV went off, along with the fridge and the lights.

Still, the new alternator was charging the starter well, so I was able to carry on regardless with the aid of the 'electric posts' available at several public moorings to keep creature comforts afloat 'till morning.

At the end of my first week though, the new alternator suddenly stopped functioning and an emergency call-out to the electrician brought the bad news that yet another replacement would be necessary - and since he now thought the main trouble did indeed lie with the 'X-Split' contrivance, could I get the boat (now devoid of any charging but the elusive sun) back to his boatyard, which happened to be a day's sailing away?

I did. A further day later he turned up and fitted a third alternator, ditched the 'X-Split' and fitted a more modern, far simpler device which fulfilled the same function.

So, off I set once more, thinking my troubles were behind me.

But no. The (now certainly charging) domestic batteries were still not holding their charge. So back to boatyard and sparks.

He now decided, belatedly, to check the condition of the two domestic batteries. One was borderline good, the other about as much use as a soggy melon, and that one was dragging the other down with it.

And that, my friends, just about marked the end of this year's Spring Cruise. All in all hardly the best boating holiday I and the 'crew' (Tina and Cinders) have ever had, but I still got quite a lot of pleasure from it. And until the bad weather set in - literally just as my real electricity problems set in - I gained a healthy sun tan.

Throughout it all, I also met some new friends, particularly one of the River Inspectors (now, of course, renamed River Rangers - sorry Mr Ranger, sir!).

And a couple from the Isle of Man even asked to take a photo of me, wearing my Isle of Man Steam Packet Co. jumper in front of *Manxman*.

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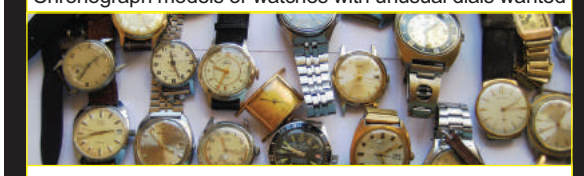

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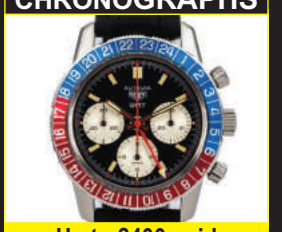

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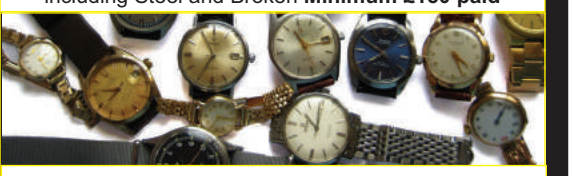

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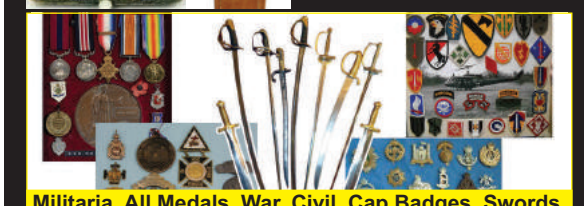

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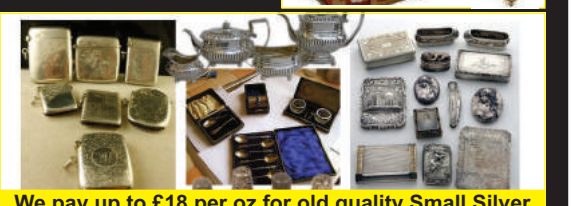

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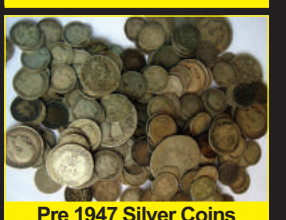

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THE owner of a Southport-based eatery has shared his secrets for success after branching out to quadruple the business as well as taking on not one but two bars as well!

Russell Jones opened Auberge on Seabank Road in May 1993 as a simple, rustic French bistro with places for 30 guests.

It quickly gained a fantastic reputation for it's quality food, efficient service and reasonable prices - paving the way for a sister restaurant in Tarleton in 1996, which they also named Auberge.

They sold this in 1999 to focus all of their time and energy on expanding their original town-centre venue, now renamed the Auberge Brasserie and in 2003 they added a bigger, grander kitchen, much more serviceable bar area and increased mezzanine space for private parties and events.

It has now grown to 120 covers plus al fresco dining terrace, from the baby it was in 1993. Sacrebleu bar next door but two was born in December 2008 and Le Grog bar next door, specialising in rums from around the world, was added in 2016 – meaning that guests can enjoy a full evening of entertainment without leaving the road, or getting wet!

Russell said: "The success I believe is from exceptional standards of fresh food produced on the premises being paramount in all aspects of our dishes and menus, immaculate surroundings in an informal and relaxed dining environment at a price for all to afford and enjoy. "The staff at Auberge - some of which are still here from our opening day, especially Linda! - take great pleasure in ensuring your visit is a pleasant experience. Our regular customers from locals to much further afield have played an important part in our growth and we still see the same faces from our first few months of trading all those years ago.

"Although the town centre has seen somewhat of a decline over the last few years, we are now complimented as a destination restaurant for every party occasion or just an intimate catch up for couples and friends and are a fantastic reason for visiting the town.

"Our menus have also moved with the times. We offer a two or three course lunch £12.95/£15.95 from noon – 2.30pm from Monday to Friday and noon – 5pm on Saturday. On Sundays, three courses including two roasts is £14.95.

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- All menus and live music events are available to view online at aubergebrasserie.com or call 01704 530671 for more information.

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Talent show hopeful is after your blood!

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Report by **Henry James**

Ronald Clark giving blood as a member of the national transfusion service's B Positive choir he's aiming to inspire more people to follow his example

A BRITAIN'S Got Talent contestant, who has worked with young people and families in West Lancashire, is using his singing skills to encourage people to give blood!

Ronald Clark has reached the next round of the popular TV contest with the B Positive choir - the official choir for the NHS Blood Transfusion and Transplant service - after receiving four 'yes' votes from the judges.

The choir, made up of 48 singers, aims to inspire more people to give blood.

A key worker for Lancashire County Council, 48-year-old Ronald has worked with young people and families in the borough, as well as Chorley, Fylde and Preston, since joining the authority in 1979.

Creative

And he's no stranger to the music scene. He was part of the dance group Felix in the 1990s and sang on the track Stars helping the single into the top 10 in 1993.

Ronald said: "I've always loved singing. I do a lot of gospel plus some soul, rhthym and blues and jazz. As blood donation is very close to my heart I jumped at the chance to sing with the choir.

"I think the choir can give a real context and relevance to blood donation in a creative, emotional and fun way that can really resonate in people's minds.

"Giving blood is such a simple act - you walk into a centre, donate, have a cup of tea and a biscuit and get on with your day. It normally takes less than an hour. What you don't see of course is the seismic impact it has on another human being. You change the life of so many people.

"I still give blood and encourage people I know to do the same by taking someone new with me each time."

To find out where you can give blood go to www.blood.co.uk.

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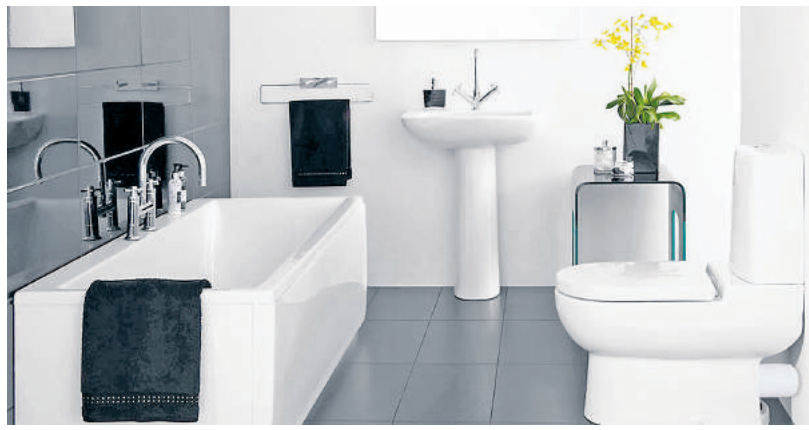

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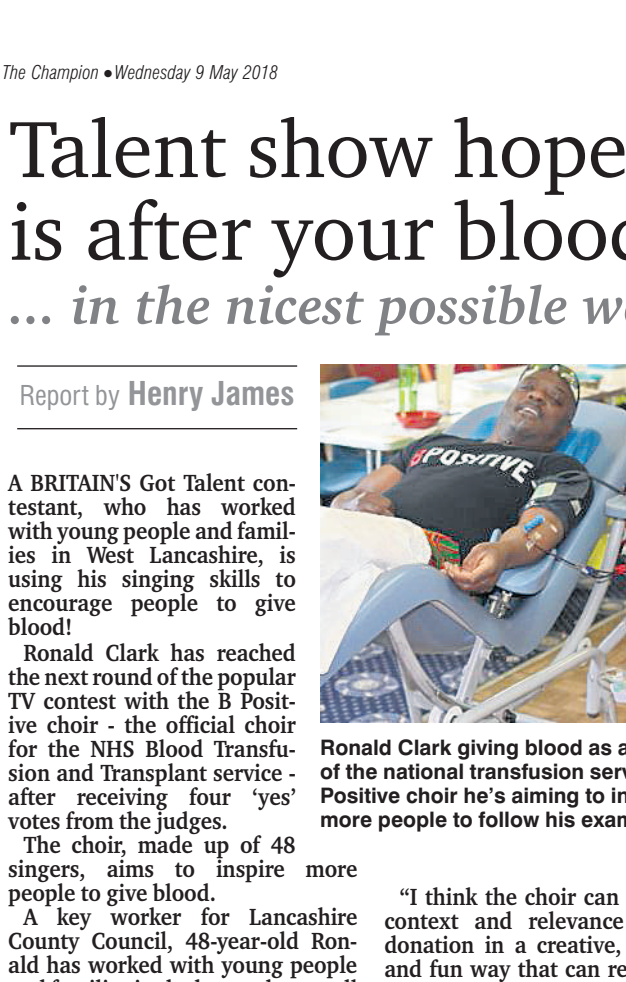

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Appeal for more foster carers

AN appeal has been launched for more potential carers to come forward after a shocking drop of 13% in the number of foster parents across the country.

The decline in the number of new approved local authority foster carers in the UK has raised concern amongst councils who need registered carers to provide safe homes for children and teenagers.

The worrying statistics show that in real terms 305 fewer households are available to local authorities so they can provide homes for children in care at a time when they need it most.

Children need foster homes for a number of reasons. Family illness, breakdown or issues around child welfare can all contribute to a situation where a child needs the love and attention of a foster family.

Campaign

Nationally the number of enquiries made by potential carers decreased by 1% but through the process of selection that figure saw an overall decrease nationally in new approved carers.

Now staff at You Can Foster, the award-winning campaign run by 28 local authorities across the UK, are calling out to new foster carers to come forward with a view to providing a stable and a loving home for vulnerable children in their local area.

Local authorities particularly need to recruit foster carers for certain groups of children including brothers and sisters; older children and teenagers; children from black and ethnic minority backgrounds; those who will be in foster care long term and children who need more specialist care.

For more information, visit youcanfoster.org

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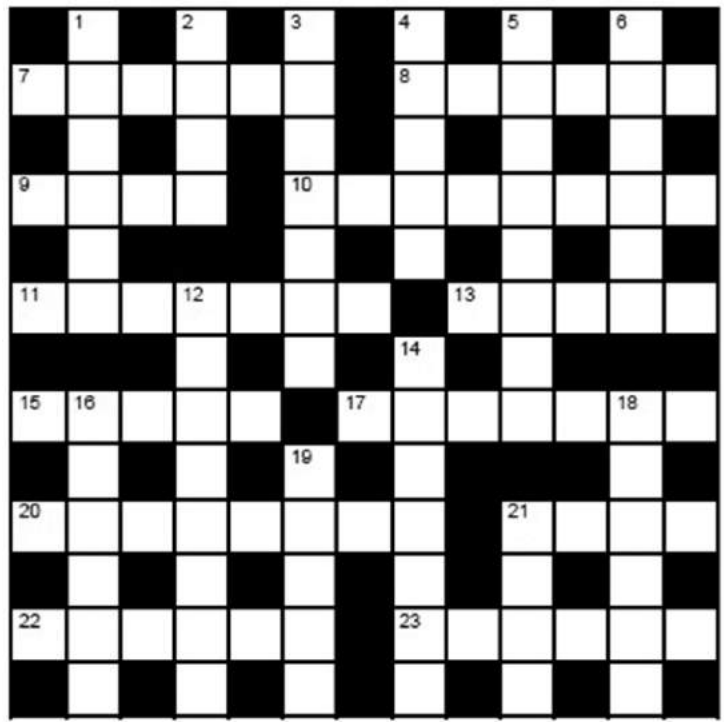

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7. Honour. 8. Unreel. 9. Slob. 10. Cookbook. 11. Edition. 13. Icing. 15. Assay. 16. Rivulet. 18. Suspense. 19. Echo. 21. Seance. 22. Starve.
Down: 1. Coil. 2. Booby trapping. 3. Tractor. 4. Futon. 5. Arabic numeral. 6. Denounce. 12. Disquiet. 14. Disease. 17. Sneer. 20. Hive.

ACROSS

7. Deep narrow gorge (6)
8. Goalie or backstump perhaps (6)
9. Time gone by (4)
10. Lower in rank, status, or quality (8)
11. Tube fitted with a hollow needle for injecting or withdrawing fluids (7)
13. Fish-eating mammal of the weasel family (5)
15. Building or buildings occupied by a community of monks or nuns (5)
17. Without hesitation (7)
20. Capital of Hawaii (8)
21. Sleeveless, upper body undergarment (4)
22. Type of fish or man's hair style popular in the 1980s (6)
23. Sharp tasting or sour (6)

DOWN

1. Star system (6)
2. Fine sand or clay carried by running water and deposited as a sediment (4)
3. To blockade or inundate (7)
4. Light rowing boat or sculling boat, typically for one person (5)
5. Having a jagged edge (8)
6. Officially cancel, repeal (6)
12. Frozen confection on a stick (3, 5)
14. Recurring at uniform intervals (7)
16. Enlarge a photo (4, 2)
18. Scottish or northern English informal term for a girl or young woman (6)
19. Military or political group that rules a country after taking power by force (5)
21. Empty space (4)

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One of the organisers Gareth Dowling (centre) with captains (l-r) Alana Sugden and Jobe Roxby for Edge Hill University, and Steven Rouke and Yasmin Henchliffe for the alumni

Rugby tournament held in memory of university coach

Report by **Kenny Parker**

MORE than 100 people turned out for an afternoon of rugby in memory of a much-loved former coach at Edge Hill University.

Paul Reid, from Newburgh, was senior lecturer in professional development at the university, as well as rugby coach. He died aged 48 in 2015 following a struggle with mental health issues. An annual event since 2015, Edge Hill University's men's and women's rugby teams compete against alumni teams for the Paul Reid Memorial Games.

A tight affair saw the Old Girls team led by captain Yasmin Henchliffe run out 29-26 winners.

Next up was the men's game where the Old Boys finished with a hefty scoreline of 60-28.

A raffle was also held on the day for Lancashire Mind which raised £730 adding to a further £230 raised online.

Steve Rouke, captain for the Old Boys, said: "Another fantastic occasion and great for us all to come together and remember a dear friend and role model, Paul.

"Through these games, he will continue to be remembered and our clubs continue to grow from strength to strength.

"We'd like to thank everyone who took part in the day and supported the raffle and donations so we could raise money for such a good cause as Lancashire Mind."

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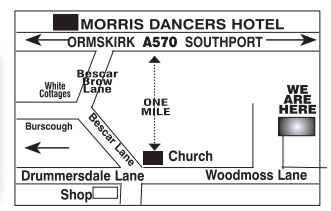

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Exhibition to showcase work of Polish artist

AN exhibition is being held this weekend to showcase the work of Polish artist Albin Trowski, who was injured during the Second World War and recovered in Ormskirk.

Organised by Southport-based Trinity Arts, the event will run from 10am to 6pm on Saturday, May 12 and from noon to 5pm on Sunday, May 13 at the group's based in the resort, Holy Trinity Church Parish Centre, Hoghton Street. The artist had a colourful life, including serving in four armies during the 1939-45 war.

He was injured in the D-Day landings and then recovered in Ormskirk, going on to study art after the war at the Liverpool School of Art.

Joy Aldred from Trinity Arts, said: "Albin has work shown in galleries and private collections all over the world and we're thrilled to be able to feature some of his work at our annual art exhibition."

Another artist featured at the exhibition is last year's Lancashire Life artist of the year finalist, Michael Treanor.

The watercolour artist from Aughton, was selected from more than 100 amateur and professional artists, as one of three finalists in the Lancashire Life Landscape Artist of the year.

For more information, visit trinityarts.org.uk.

The choir at Noordwijk where they sang at a memorial service to commemorate British ships sunk by a German U-boat.

Choir perform at special war service in Holland

Report by **Kenny Parker**

THE AUGHTON Male Voice Choir have been lending their voices to remembrance services in the Netherlands.

The group, joined by their wives and partners, travelled by coach and ferry to the continent for their biannual continental tour.

Accompanied by musical director Andrew Lord and pianist Joanne Fairclough, they sung to a large congregation at the Basilica of St Nicholas in Amsterdam on Friday May 4, the Dutch World War Two Remembrance Day.

The following day they joined the Madrigalchor Choir from West Lancashire's 'twin town' of Erkrath for a concert in Effeld on the Germany/Holland border.

Then on Sunday, May 6 on the sea front at Noordwijk the men sang at a memorial which commemorates three British ships that were sunk by a German U-boat on September 22 1914 costing 2,500 lives, the largest ever British maritime loss.

The service was organised by Noordwijk's local mayor and civic dignitaries.

The choir then went on to sing at the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in Noordwijk where some of the bodies are buried.

To round off the trip the travelling songsters planned to visit the Keukenhoftulip fields, tour Amsterdam by canal and visit Kinderdijk's windmill museum.

It is likely that while enjoying these destinations they gave the occasional impromptu performance as group member Tony Boyson had said: "No doubt the other visitors to these locations will enjoy the choir's habit of breaking out into song!"

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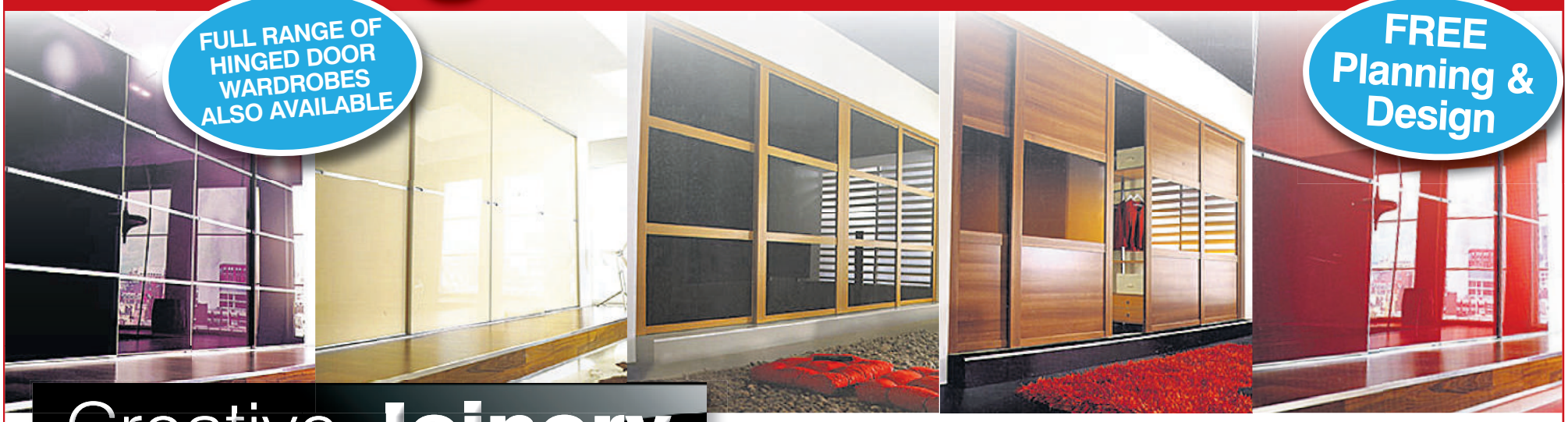

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Local opticians receive training to support customers with autism

Report by **Kenny Parker**

STAFF members at Specsavers Ormskirk and Maghull have completed a course that will help provide support to customers with autism.

The initiative, which was developed with The National Autistic Society and is being rolled out across Specsavers stores nationwide, aims to build the team's knowledge about the lifelong developmental disability, while helping to improve the customer experience for people with autism, and their carers.

The online learning modules cover understanding autism; communicating with people with autism; how autism can impact the senses, and adjustments that stores can make.

Staff at Specsavers have been learning about autism, which affects more than one in every 100 people.

Aware

Gemma Boden, practice manager at the Ormskirk store and is one of the team who has fully completed the training, said: "The training has made me more aware of the condition and helped me to recognise and adapt my behaviour accordingly, for example discussing the procedures and time scales of the eye-examination and being aware of individual needs and preferences."

And director of both Specsavers Ormskirk and Maghull, Neil Pearson, added: "Autism affects more than one in 100 people and as our store is such a big part of the community, it is vital that we are able to communicate and support someone with the condition in the most effective way possible.

"We are very proud to be involved in supporting The National Autistic Society and hope this training will help make the optical experience easier for people who are living with the condition."

Sharlene Wright, The National Autistic Society's business development manager, commented: "This has been a great opportunity for us to increase awareness of autism in partnership with an organisation that is proactively seeking to enable autistic people to have a positive experience in its stores.

"It has been an inspiring collaboration and The National Autistic Society welcomes the open attitudes and minds with which Specsavers is seeking to enhance the lives of people on the autism spectrum."

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Mediterranean
6th July 2018 for 16 Nights
Southampton ~ Malaga, Andalusia, Spain ~ Barcelona, Spain ~ Sete, France ~ Marseille, France ~ Monaco, Monaco ~ Catagena, Spain ~ Lisbon, Portugal ~ Southampton
Braemar
WAS £1,999pp
NOW Interior from £1,599pp

France & Guernsey
12th July 2018 for 8 Nights
Liverpool ~ Saint Malo, France ~ Cruising Seine River ~ Rouen, France ~ Honfleur, France ~ St Peter Port, Guernsey ~ Liverpool
Black Watch
WAS £1,309pp
NOW Ocean View from £1,049pp

Icelandic Wonders & Wildlife
22nd July 2018 for 13 Nights
Southampton ~ Reykjavík, Iceland (overnight) ~ Ísafjörður, Iceland ~ Akureyri, Iceland ~Cruising Eyjafjörður ~ Cruising by Hrísey ~ Cruising Eyjafjörður ~ Cruising Skjálfandi Bay ~ Cruising Borgarfjörður eystri ~ Cruising Seyðisfjörður ~ Seyðisfjörður, Iceland ~ Tórshavn, Faeroe Islands ~ Southampton
Braemar
WAS £1,799pp
NOW Interior from £1,499pp

Fjords & Glaciers
8th August 2018 for 9 Nights
Liverpool ~ Cruising by Seven Sisters Waterfall ~ Hellesit, Storfjord, Norway ~ Olden, Nordfjord, Norway ~ Flam, Aurlandsfjord, Norway ~ Bergen, Norway ~Lerwick, Shetland Islands, Scotland ~ Liverpool
Black Watch
WAS £1,599pp
NOW Ocean View from £1,299pp

Fjords of Greenland
17th August 2018 for 15 Nights
Liverpool ~ Reykjavík, Iceland (Overnight stay) ~ Ísafjörður, Iceland ~ Qaqortoq, Greenland ~ Narsarsuaq, Greenland ~ Nanortalik, Greenland ~ Belfast, Northern Ireland ~ Liverpool
Black Watch
WAS £2,819pp
NOW Ocean View from £2,419pp

Scottish Highlands & Islands
28th August 2018 for 5 Nights
Newcastle ~ Invergordon (for Loch Ness), Scotland ~ Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland ~ Lerwick, Shetland Islands, Scotland ~ Newcastle
Balmoral
WAS £749pp
NOW Interior from £599pp

Lochs of Scotland
15th September 2018 for 7 Nights
Liverpool ~ Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland ~ Invergordon (for Loch Ness), Scotland ~ Ullapool, Scotland ~ Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Scotland ~ Greenock (Glasgow), Scotland ~ Liverpool
Black Watch
WAS £1,249pp
NOW Ocean View from £999pp

Belgium & The Netherlands
16th September 2018 for 9 Nights
Newcastle ~ Ghent, Belgium ~ Antwerp, Belgium (overnight) ~ Rotterdam, Netherlands ~ Amsterdam. Netherlands (overnight) ~ Newcastle
Balmoral
WAS £1,099pp
NOW Interior from £799pp

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Experience atmosphere of home of country music

RELIVE the scenes of a buzzing Honky Tonk in downtown Nashville at Southport Theatre this May.

Transporting people on a musical journey through the decades, A Country Night in Nashville aims to capture the energy and atmosphere of an evening in the home of country music.

Featuring songs from its biggest stars both past and present, this celebration of country music will include hits from Johnny Cash to Alan Jackson, Dolly to the Dixie Chicks, Willie Nelson to Shania Twain, all showcased by the vocals and musicianship of Dominic Halpin and The Hurricanes, featuring Shelly Quarmby.

Country music has seen a great resurgence in popularity in recent years, with the likes of The Shires, Taylor Swift and Lady Antebellum bringing their own contemporary style to the genre. These artists, together with the hit US TV show Nashville, has introduced country to a huge new, young audience.

A Country Night in Nashville is coming to the Southport theatre

A Country night in Nashville is at Southport Theatre this Friday (May 11) at 7.30pm.

Bronté Barbé as Carole King

Production provided 'entertaining look' into life of Carole King

Review by **Henry James**

BEAUTIFUL: The Carole King Musical, which was presented last week at the Liverpool Empire, really highlighted how prolific a songwriter she is.

Her first chart hit was Will You Love Me Tomorrow, which was written when she was only 18 and after this she had a run, over a period of seven-years, of chart hits.

Carole was played by Bronté Barbé who portrays the character well and has a very strong singing voice.

Carole had a successful song writing career with her first husband Gerry Goffin (Kane Parry) and placed much importance on her family life.

However Gerry felt suffocated in his marriage and cheated on Carole. He unfortunately continues to cheat on her after she has given him a second chance.

Kane Perry showed Gerry's intensity well, although Gerry is hard to like as he has children and a wife, but is not happy with his life.

Carole and Gerry worked for Dimension Records and their competitors at the label were Cynthia Weil (Amy Richardson) and Barry Mann (Matthew Gonsalves). The two couples were able to bounce ideas off each other.

The ensemble played their part in the show, and of particular note was: Khalid Daley, Simeon Montague, Matthew Elliot-Campbell and Matt Miles as the Drifters.

There were some terrific hits throughout the show including Will You Love Me Tomorrow, Pleasant Valley Sunday and The Locomotion, which was sung by Little Eva – Carole and Gerry's babysitter.

The constant flow of musical hits were played by a slick orchestra, which was led by Patrick Hurley, the musical director.

It was not until later in her life that Carole realised that she could write songs without Gerry, and the end of the second half dealt with her solo career and her successful album, Tapestry. She obviously had many life experiences to base her songs on.

Beautiful could be described as a juke-box musical, but unlike some other shows which fall under the same category it has a strong story, Carole's real life, to hang the songs on.

Beautiful was a well-constructed musical, and an entertaining look at one of America's most successful female songwriters. 9/10

Bobby enjoying show's city run

VETERAN entertainer Bobby Crush who has recently appeared on TV in Last Laugh in Vegas can be seen on stage this week in Summer Holiday, when has made its first stop at the Liverpool Empire.

Bobby is playing the role of Jerry, the long-suffering agent, for the first eight weeks of the tour in the show that is based on the iconic 1960s film of the same name, starring Cliff Richard and The Shadows.

He has been famous in the UK for 45 years mainly as a pianist, but also as a songwriter, actor, broadcaster and television presenter. He rose to fame after six winning appearances on Opportunity Knocks (ITV).

Bobby explained a bit about the character he is playing: "Jerry is the agent of a female American pop star who is feeling pressurised and wants to get away from it all. She disguises herself as a boy in order to join our boys on the London bus on the trip to Greece.

"I am her agent chasing her to go back to work. I do this in tandem with Stella who is a typical stage mother."

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BODELWYDDAN
(Drinks Inclusive)
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Sat 12th	RHS Malvern Spring Festival *inc admission*	£35.50
Sun 13th	City of York	£16.50
Tue 15th	Colwyn Bay & Llandudno	£14.50
Wed 16th	Steam Yacht Gondola, Coniston & Ambleside *inc cruise*	£25.50
Sat 19th	Haworth 1940's Nostalgia	£15.50
Sun 20th	Buxton & Upper Peak Forest Canal Cruise *inc cream tea*	£31.50
Mon 21st	Ludlow Market & Church Stretton	£16.50
Wed 23rd	Oswestry Market & British Ironworks	£14.50
Thu 24th	Grange over Sands & Morecambe	£15.50
Sat 26th	Shropshire County Show *inc admission*	£26.50
Sun 27th	Emmerdale – The Village Tour *inc admission*	£43.90
	Porthmadog for Welsh Highland Railway *inc train*	£28.50
Mon 28th	Cartmel Races *inc admission*	£27.50

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THEATRES

WHAT'S ON AT
SOUTHPORT THEATRE

MAY

THU 10	GRUMPY OLD WOMEN	7.30PM
FRI 11	A COUNTRY NIGHT IN NASHVILLE	7.30PM
FRI 18	BOOT-LED-ZEPPELIN	7.30PM
SAT 19	NABBA NW FINALS - FH*	2.00PM
SAT 19	TOTALLY TINA	7.30PM
SAT 26	NABBA BRITAIN FINALS	10.00AM
SUN 27	THE CARPENTERS STORY	7.30PM

JUNE

FRI 08	PETER REID, PHIL THOMPSON AND DAVID JOHNSON - ENGLAND LEBENDS LIVE	7.30PM
FRI 15	SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK - THE ROD STEWART STORY	7.30PM
WED 20 - FRI 22	WALLY CAIN DANCE FESTIVAL	7.00PM
FRI 29	OUR RITA'S COMEDY GALA	3.00PM

JULY

THU 12	MATERIAL GIRL - THE MADONNA STORY	7.30PM
FRI 13	THE DRIFTERS	7.30PM
WED 18	LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY - FH*	2.30PM
SUN 22	BROADWAY MUSICALS - FH*	2.30PM

AUGUST

SAT 04	BARRY STEELE AND FRIENDS - THE ROY ORBISON STORY	7.30PM
FRI 17	THAT'LL BE THE DAY	7.30PM
TUE 21	THE LEAGUE OF GENTLEMAN LIVE AGAIN	7.30PM
FRI 24	CROONERS	7.30PM
SAT 25	THE ILLEGAL EAGLES	7.30PM

Southport Theatre & Convention Centre
0844 871 3021* ATG TICKETS
(Mon - Sat: 9am - 10pm Sun: 10am - 8pm)
www.atgtickets.com/southport*
*Calls cost 7p pm plus your phone company's access charge. Fees apply. Details correct at time of print.
KEY : FH* – FLORAL HALL

THEATRES

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An amateur production by arrangement with R&H Theatricals Europe

EVENTS - OUT & ABOUT

ADVERTORIAL

COME AND TRY CROQUET

Situated in the beautiful surroundings of Victoria Park, Southport Croquet Club has five lawns in front of the clubhouse and a further six lawns in an adjacent part of the park. The clubhouse dates back to 1905 and Croquet has been played on this site since 1894 and Southport is proud of it's status as one of the UK's oldest clubs.

Croquet really is a sport for any age and Southport's current age range is 4-94 years old!!

As well as offering Monday night training sessions, beginners and improver's coaching and opportunities to compete competitively, it also offers a fantastic social scene with regular get together and summer BBQ's

It is a fantastic place to meet new people and keep your mind and body active. Whether you are looking for social relaxation, a competitive environment or just to maintain your current fitness levels, get yourself down to Victoria Park and give it a try!

All the equipment is supplied and facilities are available throughout the year.

Visitors and new members are always welcome so come to our open day and see what you think.

YOU WILL BE SURPRISED – THEN HOOKED!!!

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Only £3pp per session
anytime between 10am-4pm each day

All equipment & tuition provided but please wear flat shoes or trainers

MONDAY EVENING BEGINNERS COURSE
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SUNDAY 13TH MAY NATIONAL CROQUET DAY
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www.southportcroquet.org

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2 NTS Friday

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Aug 10	£99.95
Oct 12	£99.95

4 NTS Monday

Jun 4	£189.95
Jul 2	£189.95
Aug 6	£189.95
Oct 8	£189.95
Nov 12	£169.95

3 NTS Friday

May BH 25	£129.95
Jun 22	£129.95
Jul 13	£139.95
Aug 24	£149.95
Sep 21	£149.95
Oct 26	£149.95

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4 NTS Monday

May 21, BH 28	£119.95
Jun 4, 11, 18, 25	£119.95
Jul 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£119.95
Aug 6, 13, 20, BH 27	£159.95
Sep 3, 10, 17, 24	£149.95

Friday	★TRIBUTE NIGHTS★	2 NTS	3 NTS
May 18	Abba	£85	£99.95
Jun 1	Swing Night	£85	£99.95
Jun 8	Rod Stewart	£85	£99.95
Jun 15	Elvis	£85	£99.95
Jun 22	Jive Rock n Roll	£85	£99.95
Jun 29	Dreamboats & Petticoats	£85	£99.95
Jul 6	Pure Whitney	£85	£99.95
Jul 13	Meatloaf	£85	£99.95
Jul 20	Cliff Richard	£85	£99.95

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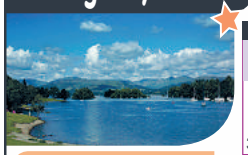

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★3 NTS Arrive Friday	★4 NTS Arrive Monday
18, 25 May	21, 28 May
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Jun	4, 11, 18, 25 Jun
6, 13, 20, 27 Jul	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jul
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Aug	6, 13, 20, 27 Aug
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DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST INCLUDED

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1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Jun	4, 11, 18, 25 Jun
6, 13, 20, 27 Jul	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jul
3, 10, 24 Aug	6, 13, 20, 27 Aug
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Nr Chester

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★2 NTS Arrive Friday	★4 NTS Arrive Monday
18 May	21, 28 May
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Jun	4, 11, 18, 25 Jun
6, 13, 20, 27 Jul	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jul
3, 10, 17, 31 Aug	6, 13, 20, 27 Aug
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18, 25 May	21, 28 May
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Jun	4, 11, 18, 25 Jun
6, 13, 20, 27 Jul	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jul
3, 10, 17, 31 Aug	6, 13, 20, 27 Aug
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2 NTS Friday

May 18	£75
Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£85
Jul 6, 13, 20, 27	£85
Aug 3, 10, 17, 31	£85

3 NTS Friday

May 18	£109.95
May BH 25, Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£129.95
Jul 6, 13, 20, 27	£129.95
Aug 3, 10, 17, BH 24, 31	£129.95
Sep 7, 14, 21, 28	£129.95
Oct 5, 12, 19, 26	£99.95
Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£99.95

4 NTS Monday

May 21	£149.95
May BH 28, Jun 4, 11, 18, 25	£169.95
Jul 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£169.95
Aug 6, 13, 20, BH 27	£169.95
Sep 3, 10, 17, 24	£169.95
Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£139.95
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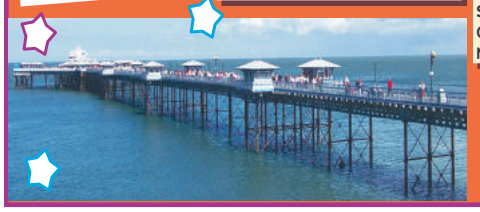

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FILING CABINET Steel 2 drawer slight rust £10 01695 420950

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16" TV New in box £45 07512 903768

COFFEE TABLE Very good condition, £30 ONO 07860 605607

DOUBLE BED Mattress as new, fire proofed £60 01704 870727

IPHONE 5 Good condition with case £70 0151 5260731

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HOUSE AND HOME

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WOMEN NIKE Trainers, excellent condition £15 0151 5260731

DISPLAY CABINET In light oak wood £40 ono 0151 5263851

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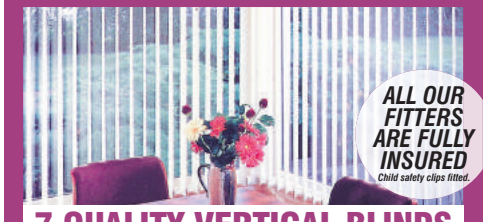

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PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

MD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ENNIS GARY

Many thanks to all those who came to Gary Ennis's funeral on the 4th May 2018. His family and friends were delighted by the support on the day, particularly from Middleton Bike Club, John the Minister and MLS, The donations for Alder Hey were phenomenal, topping £5000. If you would still like to donate please don't miss your chance www.justgiving.com/fundraising/karen-ennis99

COOPER CAROL

Terry, Suzanne and Anthony would like to thank all of their family and friends for their support, kind words and cards at such a sad time.
Thank you to Revd Tom Rich and McCallum & Tritton & Sons Funeral Directors. Donations to the Marina Dalglish Appeal on Carol's behalf have been gratefully received.

Announcements

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CLARK EDWIN

Jill, Alison and Fiona would like to thank all relatives and friends for their loving kindness and expressions of sympathy and generous donations to Queenscourt at Home and Queenscourt Hospice, Southport, who provided such wonderful care and support for Ed, together with Stocks Home Carers, Allied Health Carers, District Nurses, many other community care people and Dr Sur and the Elms Practice. Thank you to Rev. Andrew Housley for his support and comforting Service. Thanks also to Sally Hunter and staff at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their very sensitive handling of the funeral arrangements.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

HILTON ADELE

Our darling Daughter Adele
No cards or kisses on your birthday
Only our love forever.

Love from Mum, Dad, Sons Michael and Craig, Sister Heather, Nephews and Niece Neil, Rebecca and Peter
God Bless

DEATHS

WHITE SHEILA

Formerly Needham (Nee Grainger)

Passed away peacefully on 29th April 2018 after a short illness

Aged 77

Much missed by Arthur, Tim, Fiona, Dan and her family. Funeral at St Thomas the Martyr Church, Upholland on 10th May at 11.45am. Family flowers only please but donations to MENCAP.

DEATHS

ELMS ROBERT WILLIAM (BOB)

28th April 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 82 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Husband of the late Brenda, loving Dad of Alan, Robert, David and Steve, dear Father in law of Lynn, Paulette (deceased), Paula (deceased) and Jayne, devoted Grandad of Darren, Leanne, Laura, Hannah, Claire, Kate, Mark and Adam and Great Grandad to Maddison, Ethan, Thomas and Mila. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 15th May 2018 at 10:45am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired are being gratefully received for Liverpool Broadgreen Heart and Chest NHS Foundation Trust or Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

CASWELL LINDA

2nd May 2018
Peacefully at Home
Aged 67 Years

Beloved wife of Brian Much loved Mum of Neil and Sarah. Adored Nan of Sienna and Bobby. Funeral service to be held at St Helen's Church On Wednesday 16th May at 1:15pm Cremation to follow at Thornton Crematorium at 2:00pm Family Flowers only please Donations if desired to MacMillan Cancer Support C/o McCallum & Tritton & Sons 46 Mersey View Brighton-Le-Sands L22 6QB 0151 931 2002

DEATHS

CARMICHAEL NORMA

1st May 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 77 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Tommy, loving Mum of Yvonne, Ian, Andrew and Hayley and devoted Nan to all her Grand and Great Grandchildren. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale on Monday 14th May 2018 at 1:30pm followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Motor Neurone Disease Association. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

ALLEN ROBERT BRIAN (Bob)

30th April 2018
Aged 85 years
Died peacefully at Southport Hospital

Loving Husband of Wang-Joo. Cherished Brother of Audrey and Ernie and Brother-In-Law of Jeff and Audrey. Brother-In-Law also to Kuo-Wee, Kuo-Leng and Mary who live in Canada. Bob will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Canning Road Evangelical Church on Tuesday 15th May at 2:00pm followed by interment at Duke Street Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Canning Road Evangelical Church. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

LINFORD ROGER

30th April 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 95 years of Upholland, formerly of Westhead

The dearly loved Husband of the late Betty, loving Brother of Barbara (deceased) and Norman (deceased) and much loved Uncle to Penny & Patricia. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 14th May 2018 at 10:45am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for North West Cancer Research. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H. Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

LEDDEN JILLIAN DOROTHY

30th April 2018

Beloved Wife of Frank. Loving Mum to Daughter Andrea, late Son Carl and Son-in-law Steve. Devoted Nan to her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

'Beautiful memories are all we have left. To love, cherish and never forget.'

Funeral service at West Lancs Crematorium on Friday 11th May at 10.45am. Any donations to Queenscourt Hospice please. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Service, Skelmersdale. Tel: 01695 731199

DEATHS

MOORE ANDREW JAMES (Andy/Jim)

Passed away peacefully on 5th May 2018

aged 90 years

Dearly loved Husband of the late Doreen. Much loved Dad of Lorraine, Tony and Jackie. Dear Father-In-Law of Eric & Maureen. Loving Grandad of Michelle, Sarah, Katie, Lucy & Phoebe. Loved by all his Great-Grandchildren. Loved & missed by all his family and friends.Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and for Funeral arrangements, please contact Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Tel: 01695 424888

NAGLE IAN

R-I-P
2nd May 2018
Aged 78 years

Died peacefully after a long illness. Loving Husband of Monica, much loved Dad of Angela and Father-In-Law of Paul. Cherished Grandad of Matthew. Ian will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart R.C. Parish Church on Thursday 10th May at 1:00pm followed by interment at Ainsdale Catholic Cemetery. No flowers by request please, but donations are being gratefully received for Diabetes UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 82 Station Road, Ainsdale, PR8 3HW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

SIGGS NORMA

30th April 2018
Aged 81 years

Loving Wife of Ken. Much loved Mum of Alan and Jenny and Nana of Stephen and Erica. Norma will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 17th May at 2:40pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Cancer Research UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086

DEATHS

WILLIAMS GEOFFREY VERNON (GEOFF) B.E.M.

Died peacefully on 28th April at Southport and Formby District General Hospital

Beloved Husband of Anne, Father of Alan, Paul and John, Grandfather of Rachel, Beth and Nonni and Father-in-law to Karen, Jane and Hugh. Geoff will miss his beloved Royal Birkdale Golf Club (of which he was President) and will be sadly missed by all his family and friends and the many charities and societies to which he devoted his time including: Southport Talking Newspaper; Rotary Club of Southport; Southport Shelbourne Probus Club; Southport and Birkdale Provident Society; and Queenscourt Hospice. The family would like to express their sincere thanks to the staff of Stroke Ward 15b at the Hospital who provided such warm and wonderful care. Thanksgiving service will be held at Lord Street West United Church Monday 14th May at 11.30am followed by refreshments at The Royal Clifton Hotel. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Southport Talking Newspaper, Queenscourt Hospice and the Rotary Club of Southport. Donations and enquiries to Broadbents & Seddons Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4AG. Tel: 01704 550055

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IN MEMORIAM

O'NEILL ANTHONY

13th May 2011

Always in our hearts
Forever in our thoughts
We love and miss you

Loving Mum,daughter and all the family.
XXX

IN MEMORIAM

DORAN SHEILA

In memoriam
9th May 2010

Remembering you is easy we do it every day it's just the pain of losing you that never goes away from your Bill Stephen Jane Jema & Ella

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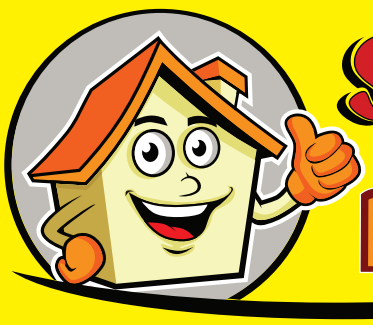

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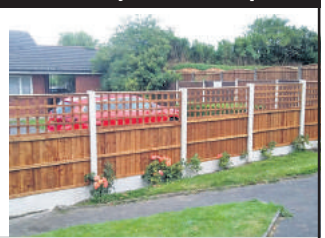

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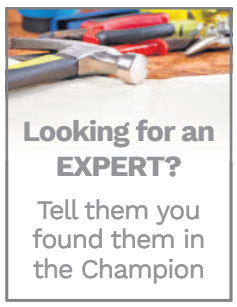

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It's definitely possible to have too much of a good thing - this sadly includes wine, Italian cuisine and Queen's Greatest Hits!

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Too much sports car fun can damage your health, as our motoring man has discovered

WINE, Italian cuisine and Queen's *Greatest Hits*. As I know from painful experience with all three – which normally involves indigestion or annoyed neighbours banging on walls – you definitely can have too much of a good thing.

Unfortunately, I can now add enjoying a sports car, top down, in the spring sunshine to that list.

It is, I reckon, exactly the sort of hedonistic petrolhead hoot that makes all those hours spent queuing in city centre traffic jams all worthwhile; the giddy thrill of going exploring in search of a country pub in something that puts the wind in your hair and a big smile on your face.

It doesn't matter whether you're doing it in a 1930s MG T-type, a Lotus Seven from the mid-Sixties or a brand-new BMW Z4, because even though their technology is wildly different, the results are always broadly the same.

This is exactly the sort of bright-eyed optimism I ventured out with over a glorious Bank Holiday last weekend in my own small sports car, my trusty (if slightly faded-looking) Mazda MX-5.

For a 28-year-old roadster it still works a treat, happily hitting the high notes with its rev counter, time and time again, but unfortunately it seems there's one component that just isn't as well engineered for the task as all of Mazda's double wishbone suspension and twin overhead cam engine trickery. Me, to be exact.

What I'd forgotten was that in blazing sunshine and 24-degree heat that human skin just isn't as good at coping with hour after hour of top-down fun. I naively ventured out for a two-hour drive to see some old racing cars going sideways at the Donington Historic Festival, spent the day looking at Ford Capris and Jaguar D-types, and spent another two hours driving home again.

Driving with the roof down for hours at a time is deceptive, because the breeze blowing onto your face masks the fact that you're slowly simmering like a barbecue sausage. It was only when I returned home eight long hours later that I realised my complexion looked like a curious blend of an Oompa Lumpa and a freshly grown tomato. No amount of aftersun was going to remedy this one overnight!

So if you are lucky enough to have a two-seater convertible at your disposal, do make sure that you keep a bottle of sun tan lotion to hand so you can keep on applying it throughout the day (and not just first thing in the morning, which was my schoolboy error).

Play it sensibly and you might just be able to enjoy all three days with the top down, as opposed to spending two of them trapped indoors, nursing colossal sunburn.

Although it did give me the chance to crack open a fresh bottle of wine and stick Queen on once again, of course…

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Linnets beat the drop in stunning style after Whyte's scoring heroics

Squires Gate 0
Burscough 6

BURSCOUGH avoided relegation in spectacular style after they scored 11 goals in two games over the Bank Holiday weekend to ensure their safety, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

The Linnets faced two must-win games and having thrashed Winsford United 5-1 on Saturday, they then hit Squires Gate for six on Monday to beat the drop in style.

Leading goalscorer Chad Whyte scored five on his own across the two games to bring his personal tally to 53 goals for the season.

Burscough opened the scoring at Squires Gate when home goalkeeper Ben Fletcher could only parry away a shot and Whyte pounced from the six yard line.

On 40 minutes it was 2-0. Danny Brady hoisted a free-kick from the left into the penalty area, Luke Gibson headed it down and Whyte was there again, this time scoring with a bicycle kick.

Whyte scored 53 goals this season. Picture by Marc Taylor

On 50 minutes Burscough made it 3-0 when Peter Henerty kept his cool at the back post by driving the ball low and hard into the net.

In the 58th minute Whyte completed his hat-trick and it was becoming a case of how many the Linnets would score.

Whyte scored his fourth of the game before Henerty made it 6-0 in added time.

Manager Dave Sutton said: "It has been a superb run and those last five games have been hanging over us, especially with four of them being away games.

"They deserve some real credit for the way they have handled the pressure over the last few weeks.

"I want to thank them and add that I am very pleased for them."

Winsford 1
Burscough 5

Burscough opened the scoring after 20 minutes when Josh Dunroe found the net with a side-foot shot.

The Linnets doubled their advantage on 35 minutes when Alex Parkes hit a well placed effort from 20 yards through a crowded penalty area.

In the 58th minute Winsford pulled a goal back when a Callum Gardner near-post free-kick was flicked home by the home number three.

Within five minutes Burscough they restored their two goal lead when Chad Whyte fired the ball low and hard into the home net to make it 3-1.

Burscough were now in complete control and Ekpolo rammed home a fourth.

The victory was crowned by a storming run from winger Prince Ekpolo who outran two defenders before scoring to make it 5-1.

No time to celebrate as Linnets look to cup final

BURSCOUGH won't have much time to celebrate avoiding relegation as they start preparations for the Macron Cup final, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

On Tuesday, May 15 the Linnets will take on Widnes, who finished second in the North West Counties Premier Division, at Fleetwood Town's Highbury Stadium.

Manager Dave Sutton has appealed for locals to turn up and show support for his team.

He said: "We have a good entertaining team now at Victoria Park and it is sad for both the players and the public that they don't come out and support the lads.

"They are a young team and I think people would be surprised just how good they are. We score plenty of goals and their attitude is tremendous, all I ask is that people come out and show them some appreciation and the match at Fleetwood is a great opportunity to do that."

It should indeed be a good game, although there are 16 places between the teams in league table, much of that is because Burscough made such a poor start to the season.

There are one or two interesting stories surrounding the game. One is Linnets goal machine Chad Whyte who has notched 53 goals this season was released by Widnes earlier in the season and will be on a mission to prove them wrong.

Another story is that of current Widnes managers Steve Akrigg and Kevin Towey, who are both former Skelmersdale United stars and will both want to get one over on their former adversaries.

Plus the way Burscough have finished the season with eleven goals in two matches must send them into battle bursting with confidence.

It could be a memorable night.

Ormskirk suffer heavy defeat at home to Bootle

ORMSKIRK were soundly beaten by 87 runs at home against second placed Bootle on Saturday, *writes Glenn Wallworth.*

The visitors chose to bat first and thanks to a combined effort from Sam Kershaw 69, Vishal Tripathi 45, Neil Williams 31, Michael Farrell 27 and Will Purser 25* were able to declare on 244-7, with Scott Lees taking the bowling honours with 3-57.

In reply, Andy Baybutt 39 and John Armstrong 35 got the hosts off to a solid start, but their dismissals by Chris Liptrot signalled the start of the end, as his 6-61 and Bharat Tripathi's 3-25 then helped bowl out Ormskirk for 157 to secure a maximum points victory for Bootle.

Northern continue to set the pace at the top of the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division after recording their third consecutive win of the campaign with a 32 run victory at Rainford.

The table toppers elected to bat and with the help of Chris Laker 46, Liam Grey 33 and Tom Sephton 25 managed to post 180 up on the board, with Andy Davies taking 5-46. In reply, two quick wickets from Jamie Barnes reduced the host to 1-2, skipper David Snellgrove 36 and John Dotters 49 restored some respectability, but they were dismissed by Tom Sephton who duly wrapped up the innings for 148 with figures of 6-56, leaving Davies unbeaten on 26* and maintaining Northern's hundred percent record.

Third placed Formby recorded a 92 run win at Wallasey, the visitors recovered from 56-6 to 158 all out, thanks to half centuries from Olli Sutton who finished unbeaten on 51* and Lancashire's Stephen Parry who scored 50, with Matthew Wilcox 4-38 and Matthew Keogh 3-44 taking the bulk of the wickets. In reply, a fine spell of bowling from the visitors helped dismiss the hosts for just 66, with spinner Parry claiming 4-5 off 8.5 overs.

Burscough well beaten at Ainsdale despite good all-round effort by Berrie

Skelmersdale lose to Sutton after being dismissed for 84 with only skipper offering resistance with bat

IN the First Division Burscough were beaten by 82 runs at Ainsdale.

The hosts elected to bat and thanks to a combined effort with the bat from Stephen Lucas 46, Mark Lucas 40, Joe Lowe 35, Darren Tyms 28* and Brandon Faber 28 were able to declare on 214-8, with Daniel Unsworth 4-51 and Lee Berrie 3-56 taking the bulk of the wickets.

In reply, Berrie top scored with 41 but he lacked much support elsewhere as Lowe mopped up the tail to finish with 4-9 as Burscough were bowled out for 132.

Southport & Birkdale made it two wins out of two with a commanding seven wicket home win against Sefton Park, the visitors chose to bat and were duly dismissed for just 70 with Robbie Houghton unbeaten on 19*, whilst the pick of the bowlers was Andy Warhust with a superb 5-13 off 15 overs. In reply, the host recovered from 11-2 to run out comfortable winners on 73-3 with opener Bradley Yates unbeaten on 44*.

In the Second Division, Skelmersdale lost by 97 runs at home against Sutton.

After choosing to bat the visitors declared on 184-9, thanks to runs from Adam Onion 55, Michael Rimmer 34, Gary Greener 27 and Jonathon Green 27, whilst Jonas Smith took 3-14 with the ball.

In reply, only skipper Liam Crilly 31 offered much with the bat as Skem were dismissed for 87, with Greener 5-17 and Liam Dodd 4-24 in fine form with the ball.

Maghull were held to a draw at home against Parkfield Liscard.

After being asked to bat the hosts racked up an impressive 254-5 dec, thanks in the main to Jon Ring who carried his bat throughout the innings to score a magnificent unbeaten century (132* inc 17x4), with backup coming from all rounder Anthony Molloy who weighed in with 52.

In reply, Robert Courtney top scored for the visitors who ended on 182-6, with Molloy 3-38 being the pick of the eight bowlers used by Paul Walters.

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